

Strategic Environmental Assessment for the Roche Parish Neighbourhood Plan



**Environmental Report to accompany
the Submission version of the
Neighbourhood Plan**

May 2016

<i>Project Role</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Position</i>	<i>Actions Summary</i>	<i>Signature</i>	<i>Date</i>
Researcher and report writer	Graham McGrath	Graduate Consultant	Undertook assessments	Graham McGrath	03/05/16
Project Manager	Nick Chisholm-Batten	Principal Consultant	Undertook assessments and compiled Environmental Report	Nick Chisholm-Batten	03/05/16
Director/QA	Steve Smith	Technical Director	QA of draft for comment	Steve Smith	05/05/16
Qualifying Body	Matthew Taylor	Group contact	Co-ordinated group inputs and comments	Matthew Taylor	05/05/16
Project Coordinator	Ffion Batcup	Neighbourhood Planning coordinator	Reviewed final report	Ffion Batcup	05/05/16

Limitations

AECOM Infrastructure and Environment Limited ("AECOM") has prepared this Report for the use of Roche Parish Council ("the Client") in accordance with the Agreement under which our services were performed. No other warranty, expressed or implied, is made as to the professional advice included in this Report or any other services provided by AECOM.

The conclusions and recommendations contained in this Report are based upon information provided by others and upon the assumption that all relevant information has been provided by those parties from whom it has been requested and that such information is accurate. Information obtained by AECOM has not been independently verified by AECOM, unless otherwise stated in the Report.

The methodology adopted and the sources of information used by AECOM in providing its services are outlined in this Report. The work described in this Report was undertaken between June 2015 and May 2016 and is based on the conditions encountered and the information available during the said period of time. The scope of this Report and the services are accordingly factually limited by these circumstances.

AECOM disclaim any undertaking or obligation to advise any person of any change in any matter affecting the Report, which may come or be brought to AECOM's attention after the date of the Report.

Certain statements made in the Report that are not historical facts may constitute estimates, projections or other forward-looking statements and even though they are based on reasonable assumptions as of the date of the Report, such forward-looking statements by their nature involve risks and uncertainties that could cause actual results to differ materially from the results predicted. AECOM specifically does not guarantee or warrant any estimate or projections contained in this Report.

Copyright

© This Report is the copyright of AECOM Infrastructure & Environment UK Limited.

AECOM Infrastructure & Environment
178 Armada Way
Plymouth, PL1 1LD
United Kingdom

Telephone: 01752 676700

CONTENTS

Non-Technical Summary	
1 Introduction	1
1.1 Background	1
1.2 SEA explained	2
1.3 Structure of this Environmental Report.....	3
2 What is the scope of the SEA?.....	6
2.1 Scope of the SEA	6
2.2 What is the plan seeking to achieve?.....	6
2.3 Vision and Objectives for the Roche Neighbourhood Plan	7
2.4 What's the plan not trying to achieve?	7
2.5 Consultation on the scope.....	8
3 What is the sustainability 'context'?.....	11
4 What is the sustainability 'baseline'?	16
5 What are the key issues and objectives that should be a focus?	28
6 What has plan making / SEA involved up to this point?	32
6.1 Overview of plan-making / SEA work undertaken since 2014	32
6.2 Appraisal of reasonable alternatives for the Neighbourhood Plan.....	32
6.3 Development of Neighbourhood Plan policies.....	43
7 Appraisal of the current Submission version of the RNP	46
8 Next steps	56
Appendix I: Regulatory requirements.....	58
Appendix II: SEA Framework	59

[This page is intentionally blank]

Non-Technical Summary

What is Strategic Environmental Assessment?

A Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) has been carried out to inform the Roche Parish Neighbourhood Plan. Neighbourhood Groups use SEA to assess Neighbourhood Plans against a set of sustainability objectives developed in consultation with interested parties. The purpose of the assessment is to avoid adverse environmental and socio-economic effects and identify opportunities to improve the environmental quality of Roche and the quality of life of residents through the Neighbourhood Plan.

What is the Roche Neighbourhood Plan?

The Roche Parish Neighbourhood Plan (RNP) presents a plan for Roche Parish in the period to 2030. Prepared to be in conformity with the emerging Cornwall Local Plan, the RNP sets out a vision, objectives and a range of policies for the Roche area. These relate to a range of topics, including, but not limited to, housing, the built environment, the historic environment, community services, open space and transport.

The overarching vision for the RNP is:

'Supporting a thriving Parish to meet local needs, and enhance its Character and Distinctiveness for a Sustainable Future'.

It is currently anticipated that the RNP will undergo a referendum in later in 2016.

Purpose of this Environmental Report

This Environmental Report, which accompanies the current 'Submission' version of the RNP, is the third document to be produced as part of the SEA process. The first document was the SEA Scoping Report (September 2015), which includes information about Roche's environment and community. The second document was the Environmental Report to accompany the consultation version of the RNP (December 2015).

The purpose of this Environmental Report is to:

- Identify, describe and evaluate the likely significant effects of the Submission version of the RNP and alternatives; and
- Provide an opportunity for statutory consultees, interested parties and the public to offer views on any aspect of the SEA process which has been carried out to date.

The Environmental Report contains:

- An outline of the contents and main objectives of the RNP and its relationship with other relevant policies, plans and programmes;
- Relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and key sustainability issues;
- The SEA Framework of objectives and appraisal questions against which the RNP has been assessed;
- The appraisal of alternative approaches for the RNP;
- The likely significant effects of the RNP in environmental terms;
- The measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects as a result of the RNP; and
- The next steps for the RNP and accompanying SEA process.

Assessment of alternative approaches for the RNP

A key requirement of the SEA Regulations is to appraise 'reasonable alternatives' for the RNP. To address this requirement, a number of alternative approaches have been considered in relation to the scale and location of new housing development to be taken forward through the Neighbourhood Plan.

Two sets of options were considered through the SEA process as 'reasonable alternatives'. These are described below.

Appraisal of different levels of housing to be delivered through the RNP

According to the latest iteration of the Cornwall Local Plan, Roche Parish's share of housing is in the region of 210 houses between 2010 and 2030. 275-280 dwellings have however already been delivered in Roche since 2010, which is in excess of the proposed Local Plan allocation.

In light of this recent delivery of housing, the Roche Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group recognised the possible benefits of potentially delivering a higher level of housing for the Neighbourhood Plan, including for the vitality of the parish, the provision of homes for local people, and the opportunities provided by the development of housing at particular sites.

To support decision-making on this element of the RNP, the SEA process considered three broad options relating to the number of houses to be taken forward for the purposes of the Neighbourhood Plan, as follows:

- Option 1: No further delivery of housing over and above that required by the emerging Cornwall Local Plan and already delivered in Roche Parish
- Option 2: Delivery of in the region of c.40-60 additional dwellings through the Neighbourhood Plan
- Option 3: Delivery of over 75 additional dwellings through the Neighbourhood Plan

The findings of the appraisal of these three options subsequently informed the number of houses to be taken forward by the Neighbourhood Plan. The Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group came to the conclusion that the delivery of housing through the RNP should reflect Option 2. It was viewed that delivering housing to this level would provide an appropriate balance between ensuring the protection of townscape character, local distinctiveness, the historic environment and biodiversity whilst also providing opportunities for delivering housing need and supporting the vitality and viability of the parish. It was also viewed that such an approach would enable enhancements to be secured to cultural heritage assets, green infrastructure networks and local services and facilities whilst also limiting the adverse effects of development in the Neighbourhood Area.

Appraisal of alternative broad locations for housing for the RNP

The RNP Steering Group initially commenced the identification of potential sites for housing in late 2014, and undertook a range of consultation and engagement exercises.

To support the consideration of the suitability of potential sites, the SEA process involved an appraisal of the key constraints present at a range of locations around Roche village and the potential effects that might arise as a result of development at these locations. This process informed the choice of housing sites for allocation through the plan.

The appraisal of the two sets of alternatives highlighted above is presented in Part 2 of this Environmental Report.

Regulation 14 consultation on the RNP: December 2015

Following the development of the plan in 2015, an appraisal of the consultation version of the RNP was undertaken through the SEA process. The appraisal was presented in an Environmental Report, which accompanied the 'Regulation 14' version of the Neighbourhood Plan released for consultation between December 2015 and January 2016.

Subsequently, in March and April 2016, the Neighbourhood Plan was further updated for Submission to reflect responses received during Regulation 14 consultation. Part 3 of this SA Report appraises the current Submission version of the plan.

Appraisal of the current version of the RNP

Utilising the SEA Framework of objectives and assessment questions developed during the earlier scoping stage of the SEA, the SEA process appraised the 29 policies put forward through the current Submission version of the RNP. The Environmental Report has presented the findings of the appraisal under six environmental themes, as follows:

- Biodiversity
- Climate change
- Land, soil and water resources
- Historic environment and landscape
- Population and community
- Transportation

The appraisal has concluded that the Submission version of the RNP is likely to lead to **significant positive effects** in terms of the 'population and community' SEA theme. These benefits largely relate to the carefully targeted spatial approach proposed by the plan, the focus on improving the quality of life of residents in Roche, the impetus on promoting enhancements to the public realm and the RNP's focus on protecting and enhancing green infrastructure and supporting enhancements to transport networks.

In terms of potential negative effects, there are likely to be some minor effects on landscape and townscape from new areas of development within and on the edge of Roche associated with the allocation of the three sites through the RNP. However, central to the Neighbourhood Plan is the protection and enhancement of the historic environment, the public realm and landscape / townscape character of the parish. When combined with the opportunities offered by the proposed bypass associated with the proposed A30-St Austell link road, this has the potential to lead to **significant positive effects** in Roche village in relation to the 'historic environment and landscape' theme.

In relation to potential effects on biodiversity, negative effects are likely to be limited by the policy approaches put forward through the RNP and not significant. Whilst the proposed sites for housing allocations are located in relative proximity to the internationally and nationally designated biodiversity sites present in the parish, any adverse effects on these sites are likely to be limited by the proposed size of the allocations.

Whilst the Submission version of the RNP will help initiate a range of beneficial approaches in relation to 'climate change' theme (including in relation to climate change mitigation and adaptation) and the 'land, soil and water resources' theme, these are not considered to be significant in the context of the SEA process.

Next steps

The RNP has been submitted to the Local Planning Authority, Cornwall Council, for its consideration. Cornwall Council will consider whether the plan is suitable to go forward to Independent Examination in terms of the RNP meeting legal requirements and its compatibility with the Cornwall Local Plan.

If the subsequent Independent Examination is favourable, the RNP will be subject to a referendum, organised by Cornwall Council. If more than 50% of those who vote agree with the plan, then it will be passed to Cornwall Council with a request it is adopted. Once adopted, the RNP will become part of the Development Plan for Roche.

[This page is intentionally blank]

The page features three thin, black, intersecting lines that create a complex geometric pattern. One line slopes downwards from the top-left towards the bottom-right. Another line slopes upwards from the bottom-left towards the top-right. A third line slopes downwards from the top-left towards the right edge. These lines intersect to form several triangular and quadrilateral shapes across the page.

Introduction

1 Introduction

1.1 Background

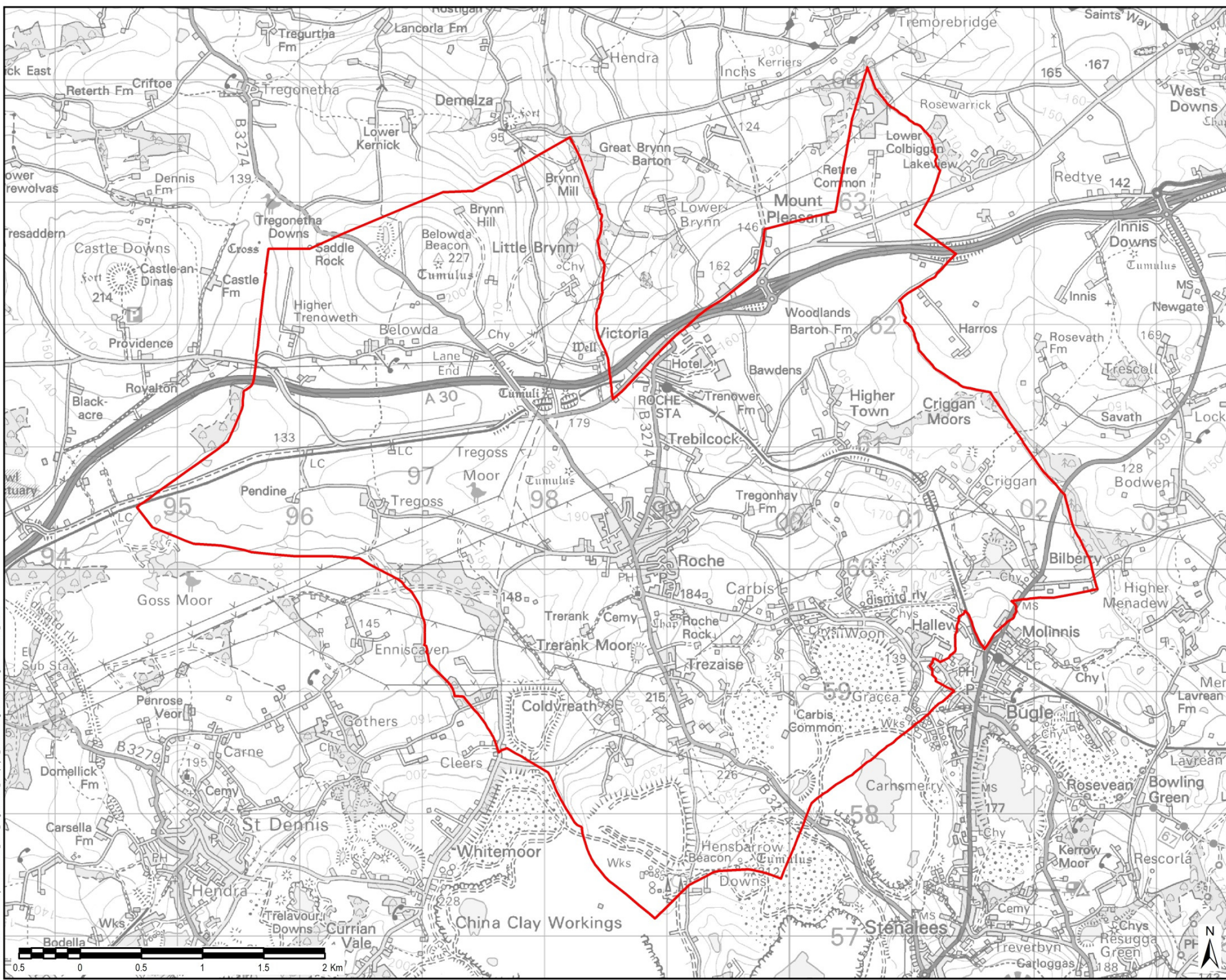
- 1.1.1 AECOM has been commissioned to undertake an independent Strategic Environmental Assessment in support of Roche's emerging Neighbourhood Plan.
- 1.1.2 The Roche Parish Neighbourhood Plan (RNP) is currently being prepared as a Neighbourhood Development Plan under the Localism Act 2012. The RNP, which covers Roche Parish (Figure 1.1), is being prepared in the context of the emerging Cornwall Local Plan.
- 1.1.3 This Environmental Report accompanies the Submission version of the RNP, which was submitted to Cornwall Council in May 2016.
- 1.1.4 Key information relating to the RNP is presented in Table 1.1.

Table 1.1 Key facts relating to the Roche Neighbourhood Plan

Name of Responsible Authority	Roche Parish Council
Title of Plan	Roche Parish Neighbourhood Plan
Subject	Neighbourhood Development Plan
Purpose	The Roche Parish Neighbourhood Plan is being prepared as a Neighbourhood Development Plan under the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012. The plan will be in conformity with the Cornwall Local Plan.
Timescale	2016 to 2030
Area covered by the plan	Roche Parish (see Figure 1.1)
Summary of content	The Roche Parish Neighbourhood Plan will set out a vision, strategy and range of policies for the plan area. Box 2.1 below presents the vision and objectives of the Neighbourhood Plan
Plan contact point	Matthew Taylor, Chair, Roche Parish Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group Email address: TAYLORMOJ@parliament.uk

LEGEND

Roche Neighbourhood Area



Copyright
Contains Ordnance Survey Data © Crown Copyright and database right 2015.

Purpose of Issue
DRAFT

Client
ROCHE PARISH COUNCIL

Project Title
SEA OF THE ROCHE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Drawing Title
ROCHE NEIGHBOURHOOD AREA

Drawn	Checked	Approved	Date
SJ	TG	NCB	02/09/2015
AECOM Internal Project No. 47075097		Scale @ A4 1:40,000	

THIS DOCUMENT HAS BEEN PREPARED PURSUANT TO A CONTRACT SUBJECT TO THE TERMS OF AECOM'S APPOINTMENT BY ITS CLIENT. AECOM ACCEPTS NO LIABILITY FOR ANY USE OF THIS DOCUMENT OTHER THAN BY ITS ORIGINAL CLIENT OR FOLLOWING AECOM'S EXPRESS AGREEMENT TO SUCH USE, AND ONLY FOR THE PURPOSES FOR WHICH IT WAS PREPARED AND PROVIDED.

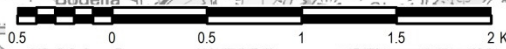
AECOM
North House
Boreham Lane, Basingstoke
Hampshire, RG21 7YP
Telephone (01256) 312200
Fax (01256) 312211
www.aecom.com



Drawing Number
FIGURE 1.1

Rev
0

File Name: K:\2014 - Information Systems\47075097\Figure 1 Roche Neighbourhood Area_A4.rxd



1.2 SEA explained

- 1.2.1 SEA is a mechanism for considering and communicating the likely significant effects of an emerging plan, and reasonable alternatives in terms of key environmental issues. The aim of SEA is to inform and influence the plan-making process with a view to avoiding or mitigating negative environmental effects and maximising positive effects. Through this approach, the SEA for the RNP seeks to maximise the emerging Neighbourhood Plan's contribution to sustainable development.
- 1.2.2 The SEA has been prepared in line with the procedures prescribed by the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (the SEA Regulations) which transpose into national law the EU Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive¹. The RNP has been 'screened in' to require SEA by Cornwall Council. To meet this requirement, the RNP is undergoing an SEA process.
- 1.2.3 The SEA Regulations require that a report is published for consultation alongside the draft plan that 'identifies, describes and evaluates' the likely significant effects of implementing 'the plan, and reasonable alternatives'. The report must then be taken into account, alongside consultation responses, when finalising the plan.
- 1.2.4 In line with the SEA Regulations this Environmental Report must essentially answer four questions:
1. What's the scope of the SEA?
 2. What has Plan-making / SEA involved up to this point?
 'Reasonable alternatives' must have been appraised for the plan.
 3. What are the appraisal findings at this current stage?
 i.e. in relation to the draft plan.
 4. What happens next?
- 1.2.5 These questions are derived from Schedule 2 of the SEA Regulations, which present 'the information to be provided within the report'. Table 1.1 presents the linkages between the regulatory requirements and the four SEA questions.

¹ Directive 2001/42/EC

1.3 Structure of this Environmental Report

1.3.1 This document is the Environmental Report for the RNP and hence needs to answer all four of the questions listed above with a view to providing the information required by the Regulations. **Each of the four questions is answered in turn within this report, as follows:**

Table 1.1: Questions that must be answered by the Environmental Report in order to meet Regulatory² requirements

<i>Environmental Report question</i>	<i>In line with regulations, the report must include...</i>
What's the plan seeking to achieve?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An outline of the contents, main objectives of the plan and relationship with other relevant plans and programmes
What's the sustainability 'context'?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The relevant environmental protection objectives, established at international or national level Any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan including those relating to any areas of a particular environmental importance
Part 1: What's the scope of the SEA? What's the sustainability 'baseline'?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan The environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected Any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan including those relating to any areas of a particular environmental importance
What are the key issues & objectives that should be a focus?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Key problems / issues and objectives that should be a focus of (i.e. provide a 'framework' for) assessment
Part 2: What has plan-making / SEA involved up to this point?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outline reasons for selecting the alternatives dealt with (and thus an explanation of the 'reasonableness' of the approach) The likely significant effects associated with alternatives Outline reasons for selecting the preferred approach in-light of alternatives appraisal / a description of how environmental objectives and considerations are reflected in the draft plan.
Part 3: What are the assessment findings at this current stage?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The likely significant effects associated with the Submission version of the plan The measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects of implementing the Submission version of the plan
Part 4: What happens next?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The next steps for plan making / SEA process.

N.B. The right-hand column of Table 1.1 does not quote directly from Schedule II of the Regulations. Rather, it reflects a degree of interpretation. This interpretation is explained in Appendix I of this report.

² Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004
Submission version of the Environmental Report- May 2016

[This page is intentionally blank]

The page features three thin, black, intersecting lines that create a complex geometric pattern. One line runs diagonally from the top-left towards the bottom-right. Another line runs diagonally from the top-right towards the bottom-left. The third line runs horizontally across the middle of the page. These lines intersect to form several triangular and quadrilateral shapes.

Part 1:
What is the scope of the SEA?

2 Introduction to Part 1

2.1 Scope of the SEA

2.1.1 This is Part 1 of the Environmental Report, the aim of which is to introduce the reader to the scope of the SEA. In particular, and as required by the SEA Regulations³, this part of the Environmental Report answers the series of questions below.

- What's the plan seeking to achieve?
- What's the sustainability 'context'?
- What's the sustainability 'baseline'?
- What are the key issues and objectives that should be a focus of SEA?

2.1.2 This next section answers the first question by outlining the RNP's vision and objectives.

2.1.3 The other three scoping questions are answered in **Chapters 3-5**, with each question answered for the following environmental themes:

- Biodiversity
- Climate change
- Historic environment and landscape
- Land, soil and water resources
- Population and community
- Transportation

2.2 What is the plan seeking to achieve?

2.2.1 The RNP is currently being developed as a Neighbourhood Development Plan under the Localism Act 2012. The Neighbourhood Plan was submitted to Cornwall Council in May 2016.

2.2.2 The RNP is being prepared in the context of the emerging Cornwall Local Plan 2010-2030. The Local Plan recently underwent consultation on the 'Proposed Schedule of Further Significant Changes' and the Cornwall Local Plan Examination will resume on 16th May 2016. It will, when adopted provide a framework for how future development across Cornwall will be planned and delivered.

2.2.3 The emerging Local Plan indicatively identifies in the region of 210 dwellings to be delivered in Roche by 2030. However in the region of 275-280 dwellings have already been delivered in Roche since 2010, which is in excess of the Local Plan allocation. Following consultation undertaken through the development of RNP, the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group has made the decision to deliver in the region of 50 more homes through the plan, recognising the need not to 'freeze' housing delivery in this period.

2.2.4 The RNP therefore provides an opportunity for meeting community aspirations within Roche whilst also helping deliver key objectives for the Neighbourhood Area.

³ Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004

2.3 Vision and Objectives for the Roche Neighbourhood Plan

- 2.3.1 The vision and objectives for the RNP were developed following the review of extensive consultation exercises carried out by the Parish Council and the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group. The vision and objectives for the RNP are presented below.

Box 2.1 Vision and objectives for the Roche Neighbourhood Plan

Vision

‘Supporting a thriving Parish to meet local needs, and enhance its Character and Distinctiveness for a Sustainable Future’.

Objectives

- Allocating sites to meet the evidenced local housing need identified in the draft Cornwall Local Plan and local survey.
- Supporting road schemes to take through traffic out of Roche and Trezaise, enabled by additional housing growth and economic development contingent on this being achieved.
- Supporting sensitive economic growth, notably mixed use redevelopment at Victoria, subject to unacceptable traffic impact on Roche being avoided.
- Protecting Open Spaces and Wildlife species and habitats – in particular designating key sites as community open space; maintaining a green gap between Roche and Victoria; opposing inappropriate development outside the development boundary; protecting Roche Rock from encroachment; protect wildlife species and habitats by directing development to less sensitive sites and retaining important features of those sites and designing wildlife enhancements into all new developments at the earliest stage.
- Avoiding loss of local services, and supporting improved pedestrian linkage between Roche Village and Victoria, and between Roche Village and Higher Trezaise.
- Taking a design led approach to ensure that future development enhances character and distinctiveness.

- 2.3.2 To support the Neighbourhood Plan’s vision and objectives, the RNP sets out a number of Neighbourhood Plan policies. The latest iteration (May 2016) of these policies has been appraised in Chapter 7 of this Environmental Report.

2.4 What’s the plan not trying to achieve?

- 2.4.1 It is important to emphasise that the plan is strategic in nature. Even the allocation of sites should be considered a strategic undertaking, i.e. a process that omits consideration of some detailed issues in the knowledge that these can be addressed further down the line (through the planning application process). The strategic nature of the plan is reflected by the scope of the SEA.

2.5 Consultation on the scope

- 2.5.1 The SEA Regulations require that: “When deciding on the scope and level of detail of the information that must be included in the report, the responsible authority shall consult the consultation bodies”. In England, the consultation bodies are Natural England, The Environment Agency and Historic England.⁴
- 2.5.2 As such, these authorities were consulted on the scope of the RNP SEA in September 2015 and consultation responses were received from all three organisations on the SEA Scoping Report. These comments, and how they have been considered and addressed, are presented in **Table 2.1**.

Table 2.1 Consultation responses received on the SEA Scoping Report

<i>Consultation response</i>	<i>How the response was considered and addressed</i>
Historic England	
David Stuart Historic Places Adviser (South West)	
I can confirm that we have no specific issues we would wish to raise in response and are happy to defer to Cornwall Council’s neighbourhood planning and historic environment teams in the identification and handling of relevant considerations.	Comments noted.
By way of general advice on the accommodation of the historic environment within SEAs I would draw your attention to our guidance which is available at https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/strategic-environ-assessment-sustainability-appraisal-historic-environment/	Guidance has been considered during undertaking of SEA process
Environment Agency	
Emma Whereat Sustainable Places Planning Advisor	
We consider the Scoping Report adequately covers the matters of interest within our remit	Comment noted
3. Biodiversity Table page 12 Table 3.1: add increase the connectivity between existing habitats?	Additional decision making question included in the SEA Framework
4. Climate Change Page 17 Table 4.2: suggest including the term SUDS – sustainably manage water run-off using SUDS ...	Decision making question updated in the SEA Framework
6. Land, soil and water resources Page 23 paragraph 6.3.4: The current classification of the waterbodies listed should be included in the current baseline. This information can be obtained via the following link: http://environment.data.gov.uk/catchment-planning/RiverBasinDistrict/8	Additional information on the current classification of the waterbodies has been included under the baseline for land, soil and water resources.
To avoid confusion about the type of river we suggest using an alternative description to ‘main river’ which has been used to describe the River Fal and River Camel. These rivers are only classed as ‘Main River’ (Under the Water Resources Act) at certain sections.	Text updated.

⁴ In-line with Article 6(3).of the SEA Directive, these consultation bodies were selected because ‘by reason of their specific environmental responsibilities,[they] are likely to be concerned by the environmental effects of implementing plans and programme.’

<i>Consultation response</i>	<i>How the response was considered and addressed</i>
Page 24 table 6.1: include reference to 'water' in the header bar.	Water included in the references to the land, soil and water resources Environmental Theme
Natural England Clare Guthrie Lead Adviser Sustainable Development- Devon	
Natural England welcomes the production of the SEA scoping report (AECOM 2015) which appears to us to cover the relevant aspects of the natural environment	Comment noted
We would advise that air quality is scoped in to the SEA given the potential for air quality impacts on the Breney Common and Goss and Tregoss Moors Special Area of Conservation (SAC). Several interest features within the designated sites (particularly Marsupella profunda) are sensitive to any increase in NOx and ammonia deposition. However, this could alternatively be covered in the biodiversity theme for designated sites.	Comment noted. An additional decision making question has been included under the biodiversity theme to cover potential air quality impacts on biodiversity.
<p>At SEA screening it was Natural England's advice that, if the separation distance of the proposed link road from the Breney Common and Goss and Tregoss Moors SAC is greater than 200m, a conclusion of no likely significant effect could be drawn and the Neighbourhood Plan would be compliant with the Basic Conditions.</p> <p>However, we understand there are several options for the St Austell bypass of which the Roche link road forms part. The SEA will need to assess the alternative routes as part of the final report. Natural England will be meeting with Cornwall Council to discuss the options.</p>	<p>The Neighbourhood Plan does not include proposals for the road scheme as the scheme is outside the scope of what is possible to include a Neighbourhood Plan. Instead it provides support to the premise of the road scheme. It is likely that an SEA of updates to the Cornwall Local Transport Plan will consider options for the scheme in more detail.</p> <p>Detailed assessments of options for the road scheme will also be undertaken for the Environmental Impact Assessment for the scheme.</p> <p>As such it is outside of the scope of the SEA to undertake and appraisal of options for the road scheme.</p>
The baseline information should include reference to the Site Improvement Plans for European sites, Natural England's National Character Areas (NCAs) and Cornwall's Green Infrastructure Strategy,	Context review has been updated to reflect comment.
<p>Multi-functional green infrastructure can perform a range of ecosystem services or functions including improved flood risk management, provision of accessible green space, climate change adaptation and biodiversity enhancement. Natural England has produced guidance on green infrastructure which can be found here</p> <p>http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/35033?category=9002</p>	Green infrastructure considerations have been incorporated within the assessment in relation to the landscape, historic environment, climate change and the population and community themes.

<i>Consultation response</i>	<i>How the response was considered and addressed</i>
We are pleased to see that, in addition to protection, the key environmental/sustainability issues include reference to enhancement of landscape, biodiversity and green infrastructure and ecological connections.	Comment noted.

- 2.5.3 Information presented below in this SEA Report has reflected the comments received on the Scoping Report.

3 What is the sustainability ‘context’?

The Environmental Report must include...

- The relevant sustainability objectives, established at international / national level
- Any existing sustainability problems / issues which are relevant to the plan including, in particular, those relating to any areas / populations etc. of particular importance

3.1 Introduction

3.1.1 An important step when seeking to establish the appropriate ‘scope’ of an SEA involves reviewing ‘sustainability context’ messages. From the SEA Regulations it is understood that there is a need to focus on context messages relating to:

3.1.2 Broad problems / issues; and

- Objectives
- i.e. ‘things that are aimed at or sought’.

3.1.3 Set out below is a summary and update to the context review presented within the September 2015 Scoping Report.

3.2 Biodiversity

3.2.1 At the European level, the EU Biodiversity Strategy⁵ was adopted in May 2011 in order to deliver an established new Europe-wide target to ‘halt the loss of biodiversity and the degradation of ecosystem services in the EU by 2020’.

3.2.2 Key messages from the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) include:

- Contribute to the Government’s commitment to halt the overall decline in biodiversity by minimising impacts and achieving net gains in biodiversity wherever possible.
- Promote the ‘preservation, restoration and recreation of priority habitats, ecological networks’ and the ‘protection and recovery of priority species’. Plan for biodiversity at a landscape-scale across local authority boundaries.
- Set criteria based policies for the protection of internationally, nationally and locally designated sites, giving weight to their importance not just individually but as a part of a wider ecological network.
- Take account of the effects of climate change in the long term. Adopt proactive strategies to adaptation and manage risks through adaptation measures including green infrastructure (i.e. ‘a network of multi-functional green space, urban and rural, which is capable of delivering a wide range of environmental and quality of life benefits for local communities’).
- Plan positively planning for ‘green infrastructure’ as part of planning for ‘ecological networks’.
- High quality open spaces should be protected or their loss mitigated, unless a lack of need is established.
- The Natural Environment White Paper (NEWP)⁶ sets out the importance of a healthy, functioning natural environment to sustained economic growth, prospering communities and personal well-being. It was in part a response to the UK’s failure to halt and reverse the decline in biodiversity by 2010 and it signalled a move away from the traditional approach of protecting biodiversity in nature reserves to adopting a landscape approach to protecting and enhancing biodiversity.

⁵ European Commission (2011) Our life insurance, our natural capital: an EU biodiversity strategy to 2020 [online] available at: http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/biodiversity/comm2006/pdf/2020/1_EN_ACT_part1_v7%5b1%5d.pdf

⁶ Defra (2012) The Natural Choice: securing the value of nature (Natural Environment White Paper) [online] available at: <http://www.official-documents.gov.uk/document/cm80/8082/8082.pdf>

3.2.3 The Cornwall Biodiversity Action Plan⁷ is presented in 4 volumes:

- *Cornwall's Biodiversity Volume 1: Audits and Priorities*
- *Cornwall's Biodiversity Volume 2: Action Plans*
- *Cornwall's Biodiversity Volume 3: Action Plans 2004*
- *Cornwall's Biodiversity Volume 4: Priority Projects 2010-2015*

3.2.4 In 1996 the Cornwall Biodiversity Initiative (CBI) produced *Cornwall's Biodiversity Volume 1: Audits and Priorities*. Following on from the recommendations in this document, Action Plans were produced for the Cornish priority habitats and species and published in *Cornwall's Biodiversity Volume 2: Action Plans*.

3.2.5 A further volume, *Cornwall's Biodiversity Volume 3: Action Plans 2004*, was produced in line with the UK Biodiversity Action Plan (UK BAP) process. This highlights the UK BAP priority habitats and species that occur in Cornwall and comprises 25 habitat and 127 Species Action Plans, each written by local experts. In this context *Cornwall's Biodiversity Volume 3: Action Plans 2004* guides local conservation work to contribute to UK BAP targets and to ensure that Cornwall's wildlife continues to be an inspiration for future generations.

3.2.6 These action plans have not been replaced and the targets and actions are still useful tools for developing the priority project areas which have been identified in Volume 4.

3.2.7 Site Improvement Plans have been prepared for the Breney Common & Tregoss and Goss Moors SAC (November 2014), the River Camel SAC (October 2014) and St Austell Clay Pits SAC (May 2015).

3.2.8 In terms of green infrastructure provision, *A Green Infrastructure Strategy for Cornwall: A Strategic Framework* was adopted in April 2013. It is anticipated that local green infrastructure strategies will shortly be prepared to support the Cornwall-wide strategy.

3.3 Climate change

3.3.1 In its 2007 strategy on climate change, the European Commission assesses the costs and benefits of combating climate change and recommends a package of measures to limit global warming to 2° Celsius.⁸ In relation to energy, the Commission recommends that the EU's energy efficiency improves by 20% and the share of renewable energy grows to 20% by 2020.

3.3.2 Key messages from the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) include:

- Support the transition to a low carbon future in a changing climate as a 'core planning principle'.
- There is a key role for planning in securing radical reductions in greenhouse gases (GHG), including in terms of meeting the targets set out in the Climate Change Act 2008⁹. Specifically, planning policy should support the move to a low carbon future through:
 - planning for new development in locations and ways which reduce GHG emissions;
 - actively supporting energy efficiency improvements to existing buildings;
 - setting local requirements for building's sustainability in a way that is consistent with the Government's zero carbon buildings policy;

⁷ Cornwall Wildlife Trust (1996 –2009) Cornwall's Biodiversity Plan Volumes 1-4 [online] available at: http://www.cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk/conservation/Biodiversity_and_Geodiversity_Action_Plans/Cornwall_Wildlife_Trust_Biodiversity_Action_Plan_BAP

⁸ Commission of the European Communities (2007) Limiting Global Climate Change to two degrees Celsius: The way ahead for 2020 and beyond [online] available at: <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2007:0002:FIN:EN:PDF>

⁹ The Climate Change Act 2008 sets targets for greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reductions through action in the UK of at least 80% by 2050, and reductions in CO₂ emissions of at least 26% by 2020, against a 1990 baseline.

- positively promoting renewable energy technologies and considering identifying suitable areas for their construction; and
- encouraging those transport solutions that support reductions in greenhouse gas emissions and reduce congestion.
- Direct development away from areas highest at risk of flooding, with development 'not to be allocated if there are reasonably available sites appropriate for the proposed development in areas with a lower probability of flooding'. Where development is necessary, it should be made safe without increasing levels of flood risk elsewhere.
- Take account of the effects of climate change in the long term, taking into account a range of factors including flooding. Adopt proactive strategies to adaptation and manage risks through adaptation measures including well planned green infrastructure.

3.3.3 The Flood and Water Management Act¹⁰ highlights that alternatives to traditional engineering approaches to flood risk management include:

- Incorporating greater resilience measures into the design of new buildings, and retro-fitting properties at risk (including historic buildings)
- Utilising the environment in order to reduce flooding, for example through the management of land to reduce runoff and through harnessing the ability of wetlands to store water
- Identifying areas suitable for inundation and water storage to reduce the risk of flooding elsewhere
- Planning to roll back development in coastal areas to avoid damage from flooding or coastal erosion
- Creating sustainable drainage systems (SuDS)¹¹

3.3.4 Further guidance is provided in the document Planning for SuDS.¹² This report calls for greater recognition of the multiple benefits that water management can present. It suggests that successful SuDS are capable of 'contributing to local quality of life and green infrastructure'.

3.4 Historic environment and landscape

3.4.1 Key messages from the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) include:

- Protect and enhance valued landscapes, giving particular weight to those identified as being of national importance.
- Heritage assets should be recognised as an 'irreplaceable resource' that should be conserved in a 'manner appropriate to their significance', taking account of 'the wider social, cultural, economic and environmental benefits' of conservation, whilst also recognising the positive contribution new development can make to local character and distinctiveness.
- Set out a 'positive strategy' for the 'conservation and enjoyment of the historic environment', including those heritage assets that are most at risk.
- Contain a clear strategy for enhancing the natural, built and historic environment.
- Consider the effects of climate change in the long term, including in terms of landscape. Adopt 'proactive strategies' to adaptation and manage risks through adaptation measures including well planned green infrastructure.

3.4.2 The Government's Statement on the Historic Environment for England¹³ sets out its vision for the historic environment. It calls for those who have the power to shape the historic environment to

¹⁰ Flood and Water Management Act (2010) [online] available at: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2010/29/contents>

¹¹ N.B. The provisions of Schedule 3 to the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 came into force on the 1st of October 2012 and makes it mandatory for any development in England or Wales to incorporate SuDs.

¹² CIRIA (2010) Planning for SuDS – making it happen [online] available at: <http://www.ciria.org/service/knowledgebase/AM/ContentManagerNet/ContentDisplay.aspx?Section=knowledgebase&NoTemplate=1&ContentID=18465>

¹³ HM Government (2010) The Government's Statement on the Historic Environment for England [online] available at: http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/+/http://www.culture.gov.uk/reference_library/publications/6763.aspx

recognise its value and to manage it in an intelligent manner in light of the contribution that it can make to social, economic and cultural life.

3.5 Land, soil and water resources

3.5.1 The EU's Soil Thematic Strategy¹⁴ presents a strategy for protecting soils resources in Europe. The main aim of the strategy is to minimise soil degradation and limit associated detrimental effects linked to water quality and quantity, human health, climate change, biodiversity, and food safety.

3.5.2 The Water Framework Directive drives a catchment-based approach to water management. In England and Wales there are 100 water catchments and it is Defra's intention is to establish a 'framework for integrated catchment management' across England. The Environment Agency is currently seeking to establish 'Significant Water Management Issues' within catchments with a view to presenting second River Basin Management Plans to ministers in 2015. The plans will seek to deliver the objectives of the WFD namely:

- Enhance the status and prevent the further deterioration of aquatic ecosystems and associated wetlands which depend on aquatic ecosystems;
- Promote the sustainable use of water;
- Reduce the pollution of water, especially by 'priority' and 'priority hazardous' substances; and
- Ensure the progressive reduction of groundwater pollution.

3.5.3 Key messages from the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) include:

- Protect and enhance soils. The value of best and most versatile agricultural land should also be taken into account.
- Prevent new or existing development from being 'adversely affected' by the presence of 'unacceptable levels' of soil pollution or land instability and be willing to remediate and mitigate 'despoiled, degraded, derelict, contaminated and unstable land, where appropriate'.
- Encourage the effective use of land' through the reuse of land which has been previously developed, 'provided that this is not of high environmental value'. Whilst there is no longer a national requirement to build at a minimum density, the NPPF requires local planning authorities to 'set out their own approach to housing density to reflect local circumstances'.
- Produce strategic policies to deliver the provision of a variety of infrastructure, including that necessary for water supply
- With regards to waste, the NPPF does not contain any specific waste policies as waste planning policy will be published as part of the National Waste Management Plan.

3.5.4 Other key documents at the national level include Safeguarding our Soils: A strategy for England¹⁵, which sets out a vision for soil use in England, and the Water White Paper¹⁶, which sets out the Government's vision for a more resilient water sector. It states the measures that will be taken to tackle issues such as poorly performing ecosystems, and the combined impacts of climate change and population growth on stressed water resources. In terms of waste management, the Government Review of Waste Policy in England¹⁷ recognises that environmental benefits and economic growth can be the result of a more sustainable approach to the use of materials.

3.6 Population and community

3.6.1 Key messages from the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) include:

¹⁴ European Commission (2006) Soil Thematic Policy [online] available at: http://ec.europa.eu/environment/soil/index_en.htm

¹⁵ Defra (2009) Safeguarding our Soils: A strategy for England [online] available at: <http://archive.defra.gov.uk/environment/quality/land/soil/documents/soil-strategy.pdf>

¹⁶ Defra (2011) Water for life (The Water White Paper) [online] available at <http://www.official-documents.gov.uk/document/cm82/8230/8230.pdf>

¹⁷ Defra (2011) Government Review of Waste Policy in England [online] available at: <http://www.defra.gov.uk/publications/files/pb13540-waste-policy-review110614.pdf>

- To 'boost significantly the supply of housing', local planning authorities should meet the 'full, objectively assessed need for market and affordable housing' in their area. They should prepare a Strategic Housing Market Assessment to assess their full housing needs, working with neighbouring authorities where housing market areas cross administrative boundaries. The Strategic Housing Market Assessment should identify the scale and mix of housing and the range of tenures that the local population is likely to need over the plan period.
- With a view to creating 'sustainable, inclusive and mixed communities' authorities should ensure provision of affordable housing onsite or externally where robustly justified.
- In rural areas, when exercising the duty to cooperate with neighbouring authorities, local planning authorities should be responsive to local circumstances and plan housing development to reflect local needs, particularly for affordable housing, including through rural exception sites where appropriate. Authorities should consider whether allowing some market housing would facilitate the provision of affordable housing to meet local needs.
- The NPPF attaches great importance to the design of the built environment. It explains how good design is a key aspect in sustainable development, and how development should improve the quality of the area over its lifetime, not just in the short term. Good architecture and landscaping are important, with the use of design codes contributing to the delivery of high quality outcomes. Design should reinforce local distinctiveness, raise the standard more generally in the area and address the connections between people and places.
- The social role of the planning system involves 'supporting vibrant and healthy communities'.
- The planning system can play an important role in facilitating social interaction and creating healthy, inclusive communities
- Promote the retention and development of local services and community facilities such as local shops, meeting places, sports venues, cultural buildings, public houses and places of worship.
- Ensure that developments create safe and accessible environments where crime and disorder, and the fear of crime, do not undermine quality of life or community cohesion. Places should contain clear and legible pedestrian routes, and high quality public spaces, which encourage the active and continual use of public areas.
- Ensuring that there is a 'sufficient choice of school places' is of 'great importance' and there is a need to take a 'proactive, positive and collaborative approach' to bringing forward 'development that will widen choice in education'.

3.6.2 The increasing role that local level authorities are expected to play in producing health outcomes is demonstrated by recent Government legislation. The Health and Social Care Act 2012 transfers responsibility for public health from the NHS to local government¹⁸, giving local authorities a duty to improve the health of the people who live in their areas. This will require a more holistic approach to health across all local government functions.

3.7 Transportation

3.7.1 European and UK transport policies and plans place emphasis on the modernisation and sustainability of the transport network. Specific objectives include reducing pollution and road congestion through improvements to public transport, walking and cycling networks and reducing the need to travel. National policy also focuses on the need for the transport network to support sustainable economic growth.

3.7.2 The current Local Transport Plan for Cornwall, *Connecting Cornwall: 2030*, was adopted in April 2011. The Local Transport Plan covers the period up to 2030 and is supported by a series of Implementation Plans. The Local Transport Plan is the key strategic policy tool through which Cornwall Council exercises its responsibilities for planning, management and development of transport in Cornwall, for both the movement of people and goods.

¹⁸ Upper tier and unitary local authorities

4 What is the sustainability 'baseline'?

The Environmental Report must include...

- The relevant aspects of the current state of the sustainability baseline and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan'
- The characteristics of areas / populations etc. likely to be significantly affected.
- Any existing sustainability problems / issues which are relevant to the plan including, in particular, those relating to any areas / populations etc. of particular importance

4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1 The baseline review tailors and develops the problems/issues identified through context review so that they are locally specific. A detailed understanding of the baseline can aid the identification and evaluation of 'likely significant effects' associated with the plan / alternatives.
- 4.1.2 Set out below is a summary and update to the baseline review presented within the September 2015 SEA Scoping Report.

4.2 Biodiversity

Summary of current baseline

- 4.2.1 Parts of three sites internationally designated for their nature conservation interest are present in the Neighbourhood Area. These are also covered by areas designated as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).
- 4.2.2 The **Breney Common and Goss and Tregoss Moors Special Area of Conservation (SAC)** covers sections of the western part of the Neighbourhood Area. The site exhibits mosaics of various habitats, including dry heaths, wet heaths, acid grassland, bog, swamp, fen and open water communities. The soil-structure of these sites reflects past mining operations, which caused poor drainage.
- 4.2.3 The resulting extensive wet communities include the localised *M14 Schoenus nigricans – Narthecium ossifragum* mire, closely associated with *M25 Molinia caerulea – Potentilla erecta* mire. There are several species of bog-mosses, bog asphodel, orchids and some nationally scarce plants, such as yellow centaury, marsh clubmoss and pillwort. The habitat also supports rich assemblages of butterflies, moths, dragonflies and damselflies, and also a population of European nightjar¹⁹.
- 4.2.4 The sections of the SAC within the Neighbourhood Area have also been designated as part of the **Goss and Tregoss Moors SSSI**. The condition assessment for the SSSI undertaken in December 2013 deemed that approximately half of the SSSI within the Neighbourhood Area is in an 'unfavourable declining' condition and the remaining 50% within an 'unfavourable recovering' condition. The 'unfavourable' condition assessments were due to inappropriate water levels and sward structure²⁰.
- 4.2.5 The **River Camel SAC** covers the streams which comprise the headwaters of the River Camel in the north of the parish. It has primarily been designated due to the importance of the River Camel for the bullhead fish and the otter²¹. The part of the SAC within the Neighbourhood Area has also been designated as the **River Camel Valley and Tributaries SSSI**. The condition assessment undertaken for the SSSI in September 2012 deemed that most of the area of SSSI within the

¹⁹ Source: JNCC: <http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/protectedsites/sacselection/sac.asp?eucode=UK0030098>

²⁰ Source: Natural England <https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/UnitDetail.aspx?UnitId=1021844>

²¹ Source: JNCC <http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/protectedsites/sacselection/sac.asp?eucode=UK0030056>

Neighbourhood Area is in an 'unfavourable- no change' condition due to disturbance of the site resulting from unmanaged burning and undergrazing and failures relating to vascular plant assemblage on site²².

- 4.2.6 A small area (0.6ha) in the south of the parish close to Trezaise also comprises part of the **St Austell Clay Pits SAC**. Located within china clay workings, this is one of three sites selected for the presence of the western rustwort, *Marsipella profunda*. The part of the SAC within the Neighbourhood Area has also been designated as the **St Austell Clay Pits SSSI**. The condition assessment undertaken for the SSSI in December 2010 deemed that the area of SSSI within the Neighbourhood Area is in an 'unfavourable- recovering' condition.²³
- 4.2.7 A number of further SSSIs are present in the Neighbourhood Area. The **Roche Rock SSSI** is a geological SSSI designated as "*The finest example of quartz-tourmaline rock in Britain and a locality that is of international renown*"²⁴. The condition assessment undertaken for the SSSI in June 2011 deemed that the site was in a 'favourable' condition²⁵.
- 4.2.8 The **Tregonetha & Belowda Downs - Belowda Beacon SSSI** is a further geological SSSI and is located in the north west of the Neighbourhood Area. It has been designated for development of minerals formed by late granitic fractionation and Boron-Fluorine metasomatism in a differentiate of the Belowda coarse megacrystic biotite granite boss²⁶. The condition assessment undertaken for the SSSI in November 2011 deemed that the site was in an 'unfavourable- recovering' condition.
- 4.2.9 SSSI Impact Risk Zones are a GIS tool/dataset which maps zones around each SSSI according to the particular sensitivities of the features for which it is notified. They specify the types of development that have the potential to have adverse impacts at a given location. Natural England is a statutory consultee on development proposals that might impact on SSSIs. Most of the existing built up parts of the Neighbourhood Area are within SSSI Impact Zones for 'residential development of 100 units or more'. As such similar development taken forward through the Neighbourhood Plan may have potential effects on the SSSIs in the vicinity of the Neighbourhood Area.
- 4.2.10 The Cornwall Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) identifies a number of 'priority habitats' that are characteristic of Cornwall and for which Cornwall makes a significant contribution to the UK aims of the Biodiversity Action Plan. Key areas of BAP Priority Habitat in the Neighbourhood Area include:
- Significant areas of Lowland Heathland BAP Priority Habitat located on the western, northern and edges of the Neighbourhood Area;
 - Areas of Upland Flushes, Fens and Swamps BAP Priority Habitat located on the western edge of the parish, south west of Tregoss and north east of Criggan;
 - Areas of Lowland Fens BAP Priority Habitat located south and west of Tregoss; and
 - Areas of Deciduous Woodland BAP Priority Habitat located between Bugle and Criggan Moor and west of Trerank;
- 4.2.11 Goss Moor in the west of the parish has been designated as a National Nature Reserve.

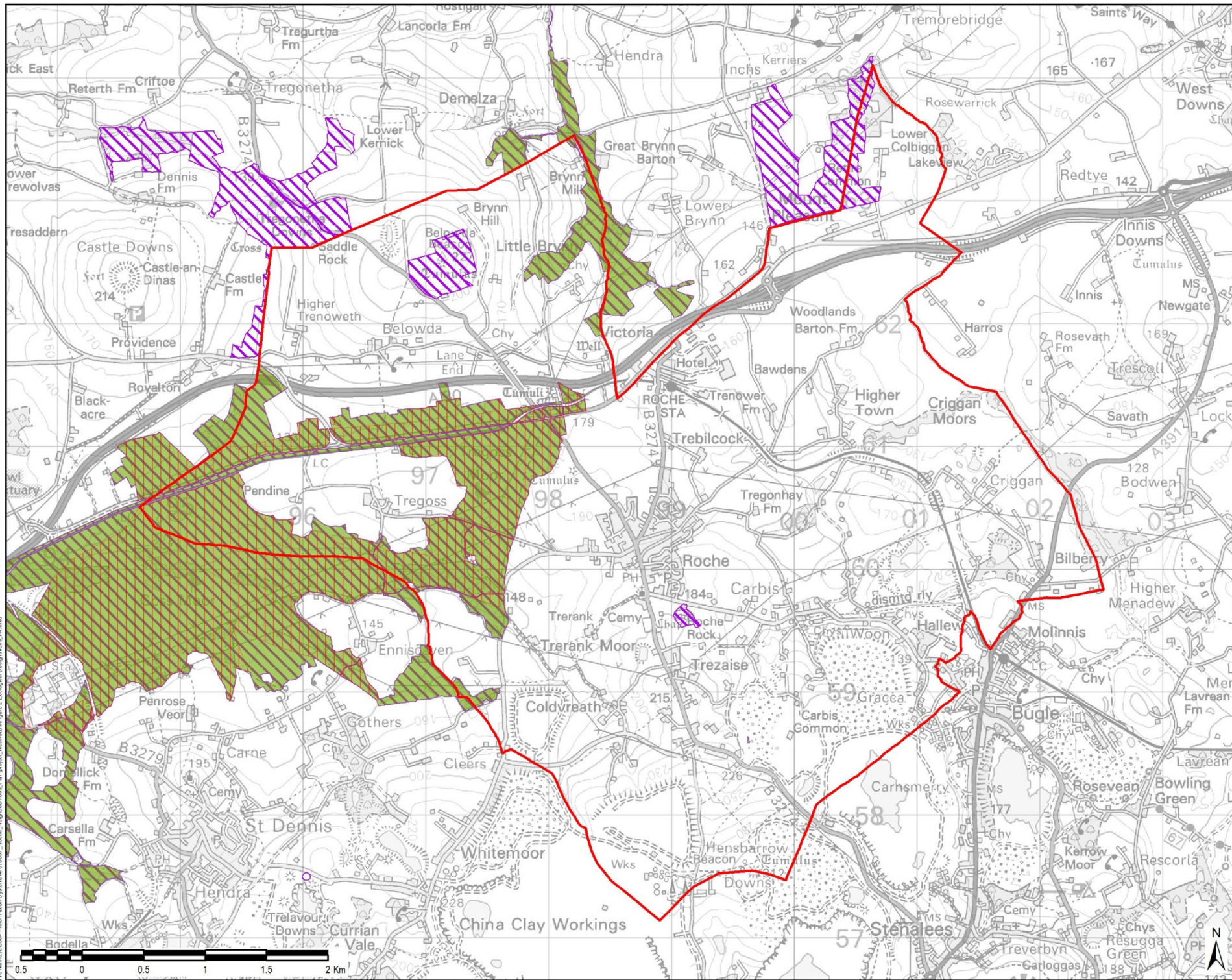
²² Source: Natural England <https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/UnitDetail.aspx?UnitId=1029257>

²³ Source: Natural England: <https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/UnitDetail.aspx?UnitId=1026101>

²⁴ Natural England SSSI citation: http://www.sssi.naturalengland.org.uk/citation/citation_photo/1001058.pdf

²⁵ Source: Natural England: <https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/UnitDetail.aspx?UnitId=1003676>

²⁶ Natural England SSSI citation: http://www.sssi.naturalengland.org.uk/citation/citation_photo/2000097.pdf



THIS DRAWING IS TO BE USED ONLY FOR THE PURPOSE OF ISSUE THAT IT WAS ISSUED FOR AND IS SUBJECT TO AMENDMENT

LEGEND

- Roche Neighbourhood Area
- National Nature Reserve (NNR)
- Special Area of Conservation (SAC)
- Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)

Copyright
 Contains Ordnance Survey Data © Crown Copyright and database right 2015.
 © Natural England material is reproduced with the permission of Natural England 2015

Purpose of Issue
DRAFT

Client
ROCHE PARISH COUNCIL

Project Title
SEA OF THE ROCHE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Drawing Title
NATURE CONSERVATION DESIGNATIONS IN THE VICINITY OF THE ROCHE NEIGHBOURHOOD AREA

Drawn	Checked	Approved	Date
SJ	TG	NCB	11/12/2015

AECOM Internal Project No. 47075097 Scale @ A4 1:40,000

THIS DOCUMENT HAS BEEN PREPARED PURSUANT TO AND IS SUBJECT TO THE TERMS OF AECOM'S APPOINTMENT BY ITS CLIENT. AECOM ACCEPTS NO LIABILITY FOR ANY USE OF THIS DOCUMENT OTHER THAN BY ITS ORIGINAL CLIENT OR FOLLOWING RECORDS EXPRESS AGREEMENT TO SUCH USE, AND ONLY FOR THE PURPOSES FOR WHICH IT WAS PREPARED AND PROVIDED.

AECOM
 Both House
 Avenue Link, Basingstoke
 Hampshire, RG21 7HP
 Telephone: 01256 310200
 Fax: 01256 310201
 www.aecom.com



Drawing Number
FIGURE 4.1

Rev
0

File Name: K:\6004 - Information Systems\60703037 - Roche_Neighbourhood_Plan\Map\Figures\Ecological Designations_A4.mxd



Summary of future baseline

- 4.2.12 Sites of biodiversity importance have the potential to come under increasing pressures from an increase in the wider area's population and associated development. This includes through a loss of habitats and impacts on biodiversity networks. This may be exacerbated by the effects of climate change, which has the potential to lead to changes in the distribution and abundance of species and changes to the composition and character of habitats.
- 4.2.13 Biodiversity in the plan area has the potential to continue to be affected by the economic necessity for intensive farming in the area (as facilitated by the presence of high quality of agricultural land in the plan area). There is however the potential for gains for biodiversity in the farmed landscape to arise as a result of the New Environmental Land Management Scheme (NELMS), which is currently being implemented.
- 4.2.14 Benefits for biodiversity have the potential to arise from the increasing integration of biodiversity considerations within forward planning in Cornwall and efforts to improve green infrastructure networks in the area.

4.3 Climate change

Summary of current baseline

- 4.3.1 The outcome of research on the probable effects of climate change in the UK was released in 2009 by the UK Climate Projections (UKCP09) team²⁷. UKCP09 gives climate information for the UK up to the end of this century and projections of future changes to the climate are provided, based on simulations from climate models. Projections are broken down to a regional level across the UK and are shown in probabilistic form, which illustrate the potential range of changes and the level of confidence in each prediction.
- 4.3.2 As highlighted by the research, the effects of climate change for the south west by 2050 for a medium emissions scenario²⁸ are likely to be as follows:
- the central estimate of increase in winter mean temperature is 2.1°C and an increase in summer mean temperature of 2.7°C; and
 - the central estimate of change in winter mean precipitation is 17% and summer mean precipitation is –20%.
- 4.3.3 Resulting from these changes, a range of risks may exist for the Roche Neighbourhood Area. These include:
- increased incidence of heat related illnesses and deaths during the summer;
 - increased incidence of illnesses and deaths related to exposure to sunlight (e.g. skin cancer, cataracts);
 - increased incidence of pathogen related diseases (e.g. legionella and salmonella);
 - increase in health problems related to rise in local ozone levels during summer;
 - increased risk of injuries and deaths due to increased number of storm events;
 - effects on water resources from climate change;
 - reduction in availability of groundwater for abstraction;
 - adverse effect on water quality from low stream levels and turbulent stream flow after heavy rain;
 - increased risk of flooding, including increased vulnerability to 1:100 year floods;

²⁷ The data was released on 18th June 2009: See: <http://ukclimateprojections.defra.gov.uk/>

²⁸ UK Climate Projections (2009) South West 2050s Medium Emissions Scenario [online] available at: <http://ukclimateprojections.metoffice.gov.uk/22290>

- changes in insurance provisions for flood damage;
- a need to increase the capacity of wastewater treatment plants and sewers;
- a need to upgrade flood defences;
- soil erosion due to flash flooding;
- loss of species that are at the edge of their southerly distribution;
- spread of species at the northern edge of their distribution;
- deterioration in working conditions due to increased temperatures;
- changes to global supply chain;
- increased difficulty of food preparation, handling and storage due to higher temperatures;
- an increased move by the insurance industry towards a more risk-based approach to insurance underwriting, leading to higher cost premiums for business;
- increased demand for air-conditioning;
- increased drought and flood related problems such as soil shrinkages and subsidence;
- risk of road surfaces melting more frequently due to increased temperature; and
- flooding of roads.

4.3.4 In terms of flood risk, fluvial flooding is an issue for Carbis where an area to the east of the settlement is within a Flood Zone 3, which denotes a High Probability of flooding (i.e having a 1 in 100 or greater annual probability of flooding). Fluvial flood risk is not a significant issue for other built up areas in the parish.

In terms of surface water flooding, a 1 in 30 year surface flood zone extends from the centre of Roche to the east along Mayfield Drive. There are also 1 in 30 year surface flood zones present in some parts of Victoria, including in the vicinity of Roche rail station, and in the vicinity of Carbis.

4.3.5 In relation to greenhouse gas emissions, source data from the Department of Energy and Climate Change²⁹ suggests that Cornwall has had consistently higher per capita emissions than regionally and nationally since 2005. The county has however seen the same reductions in emissions per capita between 2005 and 2012 (1.2 t CO₂) when compared to the south west and England.

4.3.6 In relation to CO₂ emissions by end user between 2005 and 2012, whilst the data indicates a decrease in overall emissions, Cornwall still has significantly higher per capita emissions from the Road and Transport category than south west and England comparators. The proportion of greenhouse gas emissions originating from the Road and Transport category has also increased in relation to other sources. In this context, whilst in 2005 it comprised below 28% of total emissions, in 2012 it comprised 30% of emissions.

Summary of current baseline

4.3.7 The Roche Neighbourhood Area has a rich historic environment. A number of features and areas for the historic environment in the plan area are recognised through historic environment designations. These include statutory listed buildings and scheduled monuments, which are nationally designated, and conservation areas, which are designated at the local level (Figure 4.2). Historic England is the statutory consultee for certain categories of listed building consent and all applications for scheduled monument consent. The historic environment is protected through the planning system, via conditions imposed on developers and other mechanisms.

4.3.8 The Neighbourhood Area contains 34 listed buildings. This includes one Grade I listed building (Chapel of St Michael at Roche Rock), one Grade II* listed building (Church of St Gomonda) and 32 Grade II listed structures. Whilst no conservation areas are present in the Neighbourhood Area,

²⁹ Department of Energy and Climate Change (2012) Official statistics: Local Authority carbon dioxide emissions [online] available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/local-authority-emissions-estimates> (accessed on 28/07/2015)

particular concentrations of listed buildings in the Neighbourhood area include east of Carbis (associated with historic china clay works), in the vicinity of the Church of St Gomonda and rectory, and in the vicinity of Roche Wesleyan Methodist Church.

4.3.9 Scheduled monuments are sites of national importance and protected by the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979. According to the National Heritage List for England³⁰, there are seven scheduled monuments in the Neighbourhood Area, as follows:

- Three bowl barrows between 120m and 820m south of Brynn Barton Cottage
- Holy well NW of Roche Station
- Round cairn with beacon called Hensbarrow
- Wayside cross 515m north east of Castle Farm
- Medieval chapel of St Michael's on Roche Rock
- Platform cairn 180m northwest of Hensbarrow Farm
- Churchyard cross in Roche churchyard, 10m south of the church.

4.3.10 There are no registered park and gardens or historic battlefields located in the parish.

4.3.11 Since 2008, English Heritage has released an annual Heritage at Risk Register. The Heritage at Risk Register highlights the Grade I and Grade II* listed buildings, and scheduled monuments, conservation areas, wreck sites and registered parks and gardens in England deemed to be 'at risk'. The latest Heritage at Risk Register³¹ highlights that there are no features or areas deemed to be at risk in the Neighbourhood Area. It is understood that a survey of Grade II listed buildings has not yet been carried out in the parish.

4.3.12 It should be noted that not all of the area's historic environment resource is subject to statutory designations, and non-designated features comprise a large part of what people have contact with as part of daily life – whether at home, work or leisure. For example, although not designated, many buildings and areas are of historic interest, and which are seen as important by local communities. Examples of these in the Neighbourhood Area are likely to include Roche's green spaces. Undesignated actual or potential archaeological finds in the area are also of significance.

4.3.13 In terms of landscape and townscape considerations, no parts of the Neighbourhood Area fall within an area designated for its landscape value, and no conservation areas are present. However the parish has a distinctive landscape and townscape, closely linked to Roche's evolution as an ecclesiastical, administrative, marketing and service centre and industrial and mining development in the parish. Key local landmarks include Roche Rock, the Chapel of St Michael, the tower of St Gomonda, Glebe Meadow and features of mining heritage.

4.3.14 The A30 trunk road has adverse impacts on tranquillity in parts of the Neighbourhood Area through effects on noise quality. Traffic (including freight traffic) has significant effects on the quality of the public realm on key routes through the centre of Roche.

Summary of future baseline

4.3.15 New development areas in Roche have the potential to impact on the fabric and setting of cultural heritage assets. This includes through inappropriate design and layout. It should be noted, however, that existing historic environment designations and Local Plan policies will offer a degree of protection to cultural heritage assets and their settings. Also new development need not be harmful to the significance of a heritage asset; new development may be an opportunity to enhance the setting of an asset and better reveal its significance.

³⁰ Historic England: Natural Heritage List for England: <http://list.historicengland.org.uk> [accessed 28/08/15].

³¹ Heritage at Risk Register (2014), <http://risk.historicengland.org.uk/register.aspx> [accessed 28/08/15]

THIS DRAWING IS TO BE USED ONLY FOR THE PURPOSE OF ISSUE THAT IT WAS ISSUED FOR AND IS SUBJECT TO AMENDMENT

LEGEND

- Roche Neighbourhood Area
- Listed building
 - Grade I
 - Grade II
 - Grade II*
 - Record of scheduled monument

Copyright
 © Historic England 2015. Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2015 The Historic England GIS Data contained in this material was obtained on 2015.

Purpose of Issue
DRAFT

Client
ROCHE PARISH COUNCIL

Project Title
SEA OF THE ROCHE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Drawing Title
HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT AND LANDSCAPE

Drawn	Checked	Approved	Date
SJ	TG	NCB	11/12/2015

AECOM Internal Project No: 47075097 Scale @ A4: 1:40,000

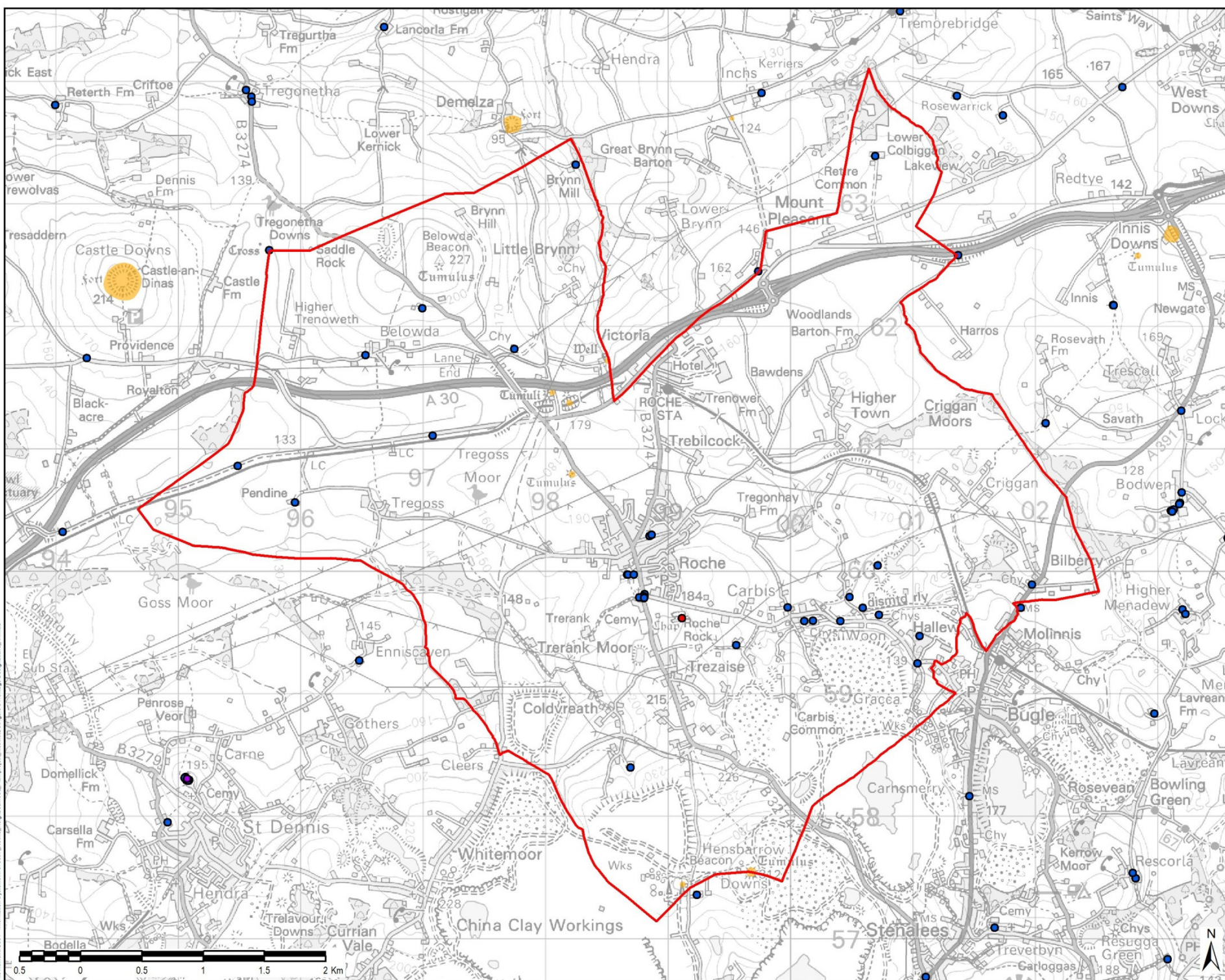
THIS DOCUMENT HAS BEEN PREPARED PURSUANT TO AND IS SUBJECT TO THE TERMS OF AECOM'S APPOINTMENT BY ITS CLIENT. AECOM ACCEPTS NO LIABILITY FOR ANY USE OF THIS DOCUMENT OTHER THAN BY ITS ORIGINAL CLIENT OR FOLLOWING AECOM'S EXPRESS AGREEMENT TO SUCH USE, AND ONLY FOR THE PURPOSES FOR WHICH IT WAS PREPARED AND PROVIDED.

AECOM
 Rich House
 Avonlea Link, Bevington
 Harrogate, RG21 7FP
 Telephone: 01256 310200
 Fax: 01256 310201
 www.aecom.com

AECOM

Drawing Number
FIGURE 4.2

Rev
0



File Name: K:\004 - Information Systems\47075097 - Roche_Neighbourhood_Plan\project_files\MXD\Figure 3 Heritage Designations_A1.mxd

- 4.3.16 New development has the potential to lead to incremental but small changes in landscape and townscape character and quality in and around the Neighbourhood Area. This includes from the loss of landscape features and visual impact. There also has the potential for effects on landscape/townscape character and quality in the vicinity of the road network due to an incremental growth in traffic flows.
- 4.3.17 There are likely to be small scale and incremental changes in tranquillity in and around the plan area, affected by changes in the levels of light and noise pollution.

Summary of future baseline

- 4.3.18 New development areas in the Neighbourhood Area have the potential to impact on the fabric and setting of cultural heritage assets. This includes through inappropriate design and layout and through settlement expansion or infilling. It should be noted, however, that existing historic environment designations and Local Plan policies will offer a degree of protection to cultural heritage assets and their settings. Also new development need not be harmful to the significance of a heritage asset; new development may be an opportunity to enhance the setting of an asset and better reveal its significance.
- 4.3.19 New development has the potential to lead to incremental but small changes in landscape and townscape character and quality in and around the plan area. This includes from the loss of landscape features and visual impact. There are also likely to be potential effects on landscape/townscape character and quality in the vicinity of the road network due to an incremental growth in traffic flows.
- 4.3.20 There are likely to be small scale and incremental changes in tranquillity in and around the plan area, affected by changes in the levels of light and noise pollution.

4.4 Land, soil and water resources

Summary of current baseline

- 4.4.1 The Agricultural Land Classification classifies land into five grades (plus 'non-agricultural' and 'urban'), where Grades 1 to 3a are the 'best and most versatile' land and Grades 3b to 5 are of poorer quality.
- 4.4.2 In terms of the location of the best and most versatile agricultural land, detailed classification has not been carried out in the Neighbourhood Area. However Grade 3 agricultural land is located to the west and north east of Roche village.
- 4.4.3 There is no Household Waste and Recycling Centre in the Neighbourhood Area. The nearest is located at Menear Road in St Austell, approximately 9km from Roche village.
- 4.4.4 The headwaters of two of the larger rivers in Cornwall are present in the Neighbourhood Area. The River Fal rises at Pentevale on Goss Moor, before flowing southwards past St Stephen, Grampound and Tregony and entering the Fal Estuary. The tributaries associated with the River Fal located within the parish have been established to be in a 'moderate' ecological condition and a 'good' chemical condition (2014). The headwaters of the River Camel (the Demelza Stream- Ruthern) are located in the north of the Neighbourhood Area, which flow north and east to the primary channel of the River Camel west of Bodmin. The Demelza Stream at this location has been established as being in a 'good' ecological and chemical condition (2014). The headwaters of the River Par are also located in the east of the Neighbourhood Area. The tributaries associated with the River Par within the parish have been established to be in a 'moderate' ecological condition and a 'good' chemical condition (2014).

- 4.4.5 Water supply and waste water provision in the area is provided by South West Water. The West Cornwall and Fal Abstraction Management Strategy highlights that 'Water is Available for Licensing' in the area. This indicates that there is more water than required to meet the needs of the environment and new licences can be considered depending on local and downstream impacts.
- 4.4.6 Groundwater Source Protection Zones (SPZs) have been defined by the Environment Agency in England and Wales to protect groundwater sources such as wells, boreholes and springs that are used for public drinking water supply. The zones show the risk of contamination from activities that might cause groundwater pollution in the area. No SPZs are present in the Neighbourhood Area.
- 4.4.7 The Nitrates Directive (91/676/EEC) requires Member States to identify areas where groundwaters have nitrate concentrations of more than 50 mg/l nitrate or are thought to be at risk of nitrate contamination. Areas associated with such groundwaters are designated as Nitrate Vulnerable Zones (NVZs) within which, Member States are required to establish Action Programmes in order to reduce and prevent further nitrate contamination. The western half of the plan area is underlain by a eutrophic NVZ.

Summary of future baseline

- 4.4.8 In the absence of the plan, a higher proportion of development has the potential to take place on greenfield land. This is especially the case given the greater availability of such land in the plan area and the likely growth in the local population and economy which will make such development attractive. Development in the plan area may have the potential to lead to the loss of some areas of the best and most versatile agricultural land, including Grade 3a agricultural land, although this is uncertain.
- 4.4.9 Due to increasing legislative and regulatory requirements, there are increasing pressures to improve recycling and composting rates.
- 4.4.10 In terms of water quality, the requirements of the Water Framework Directive are likely to lead to continued improvements to water quality in watercourses in the wider area. Water quality is also likely to continue to be affected by pollution incidents in the area, the presence of non-native species and physical modifications to water bodies.
- 4.4.11 Water availability in the wider area may be affected by regional increases in population and an increased occurrence of drought exacerbated by the effects of climate change.

4.5 Population and community

Summary of current baseline

- 4.5.1 According to the most recent census data available, in 2011 the total population of the parish of Roche was 3,381³². This was an increase of 499 from the 2001 census, or a 17.31% population growth (see **Table 4.1**). The rate of population growth in the parish during this period was significantly higher than Cornwall, regional and national comparators.

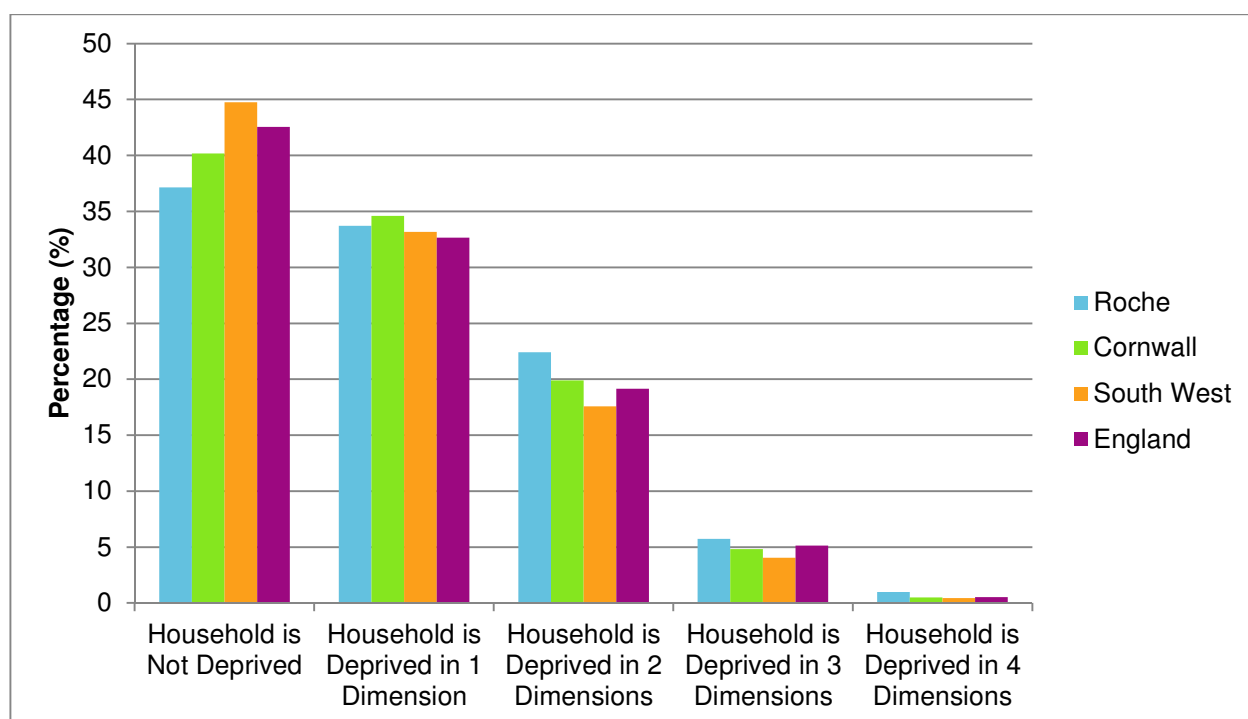
³² Office for National Statistics (2011) Neighbourhood Statistics [online] available at: <http://www.neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk/dissemination/>

Table 4.1 Population growth, 2001-2011³³

Date	Roche	Cornwall	South West	England
2001	2,882	499,114	4,928,434	49,138,831
2011	3,381	532,273	5,288,935	53,012,456
Population Change 2001-2011	17.31%	6.64%	7.31%	7.88%

4.5.2 A higher proportion of individuals in Roche Parish are within the 0-15, 25-44 and 25-58 age ranges than Cornwall and regional averages. There is also a lower proportion of residents aged 16-24 and 60 and over when compared to Cornwall and regional averages.

4.5.3 Deprivation is an issue in the Neighbourhood Area. In this context statistics highlight that Roche parish has a higher proportion of households with deprivation in 2, 3 or 4 dimensions than Cornwall, south west and England averages and a lower proportion of households with deprivation in no dimensions (see **Figure 4.3**).

**Figure 4.3** Relative deprivation dimensions

4.5.4 In terms of the house price to income ratio, which illustrates the multiple of the average income in the area to average house price, the affordability ratio for Cornwall in 2013 was 8.42, a decrease from 9.11 in 2010. This is significantly higher than the ratio of 6.72 for England.³⁴ Whilst no data is available at the parish level, housing in Roche is generally seen to be more affordable than other areas in Cornwall.

4.5.5 A lower proportion of Roche residents live in housing owned either outright or with a mortgage (66.4% in total), than Cornwall (68.8%) or regional (67.4%) averages. Conversely a significantly higher proportion of households rent privately in the parish (19.8%) than tenure values at Cornwall, regional and national level. Whilst the proportion of households living in social rented housing is

³³ ONS (2011) Census 2011, Population Density, 2001 (UV02)

³⁴ DCLG, statistics sourced from Shelter Housing Databank website:

http://england.shelter.org.uk/professional_resources/housing_databank This data is not available at ward or parish level.

lower than Cornwall, regional and national averages, the proportion of households living in shared ownership is higher than all comparators.

- 4.5.6 The population of the Neighbourhood Area is less qualified than Cornwall, regional and national averages with only 14.4% of residents aged 16 and above having a Level 4 Qualification and above. This is significantly less than the Cornwall average of 24.9% and the regional average of 27.4%. Likewise, 29.1% of residents aged 16 and above have no qualifications, which is significantly more than Cornwall average of 22.4% and the regional average of 20.7%.
- 4.5.7 As highlighted in Table 4.2, general health across Roche is relatively unfavourable when compared to Cornwall averages, and significantly less favourable when compared to regional and national averages. In this context 42.7% of people in the parish reported that they were in 'very good' health³⁵, which is lower than Cornwall averages (45.2%), with the proportion of people reporting that they were 'bad health' or 'very bad health' slightly higher than Cornwall averages.

Table 4.2 General Health

	Roche	Cornwall	South West	England
Very Good Health	42.7%	45.2%	46.9%	47.2%
Good Health	35.3%	33.6%	34.6%	34.2%
Fair Health	15.2%	14.9%	13.4%	13.1%
Bad Health	5.3%	4.9%	4.0%	4.2%
Very Bad Health	1.4%	1.4%	1.1%	1.2%

Summary of future baseline

- 4.5.8 The population of the Neighbourhood Area is likely to continue to grow and age.
- 4.5.9 The suitability (e.g. size and design) and affordability of housing for local requirements depends on the implementation of appropriate housing policies through the Local Plan and Neighbourhood Plan. Unplanned development may have wider implications in terms of transport and access to infrastructure, or the natural environment.
- 4.5.10 Increasing economic activity rates and relatively low house prices are likely to increase demand for new housing in the area.
- 4.5.11 Obesity is seen as an increasing issue by health professionals, and one that will contribute to significant health impacts on individuals, including increasing the risk of a range of diseases, including heart disease, diabetes and some forms of cancer.
- 4.5.12 Noise pollution from main routes through the village has the potential to be an increasing issue as traffic flows increase on this major route. This however depends on whether a bypass is delivered.

4.6 Transportation

Summary of current baseline

Rail network

- 4.6.1 Roche railway station is located in the north of the Neighbourhood Area, approximately 1.5km to the north of the centre of Roche village. It is located on the Newquay to Par branch line, with journey times of 31 minutes to Newquay and 25 minutes to Par. Services are relatively infrequent, with

³⁵ ONS (2011) Census 2011, General Health (QS302EW)

approximately five services a day in each direction. Connections to the national rail network can be made at Par, with approximate journey times to St Austell, 42 minutes; Truro, 1 hour; and Plymouth 1 hour 30 minutes.

Bus network

- 4.6.2 Roche and Victoria are connected to St Austell, Bugle, Penwithick and Bodmin by First in Devon, Cornwall and Somerset service number 27. The service runs hourly during weekdays, with the earliest service at approximately 6:45am and the latest service at 11pm. Journey times are approximately 1 hour to St Austell and 30 minutes to Bodmin.

Road network and congestion

- 4.6.3 Victoria is located adjacent to the A30, which is one of the two main routes into Cornwall from Devon, the M5 and the A303.
- 4.6.4 Significant freight traffic flows through the centre of Roche village between the A30 and employment areas in the north of the county, and the A391 via the B3724. This has led to significant issues relating to road safety and noise pollution. To address these issues, a bypass has been proposed for the village.

Cycle network

- 4.6.5 Roche has good cycle links to the National Cycle Network and is connected to National Route 305, which links the village to Newquay, Bugle and the Eden Project. The route is however largely on-road.

Availability of cars and vans

- 4.6.6 Car or van ownership is relatively high in Roche in comparison to Cornwall, regional and national comparators, with more households having access to 2 or more vehicles. The proportion of households with no access to a car/van is also significantly lower than Cornwall, regional and national averages. This reflects a high dependency on the private car.

Travel to work

- 4.6.7 The proportion of people who travel to work by car in Roche is significantly higher than Cornwall, regional and national comparators.
- 4.6.8 A lower proportion of people travel to work by train than Cornwall and regional comparators. Whilst this reflects the infrequent rail service from Roche rail station, a lower proportion of people also travel to work by bus than all comparators.

Summary of future baseline

- 4.6.9 An increase in the wider population of the area and increased employment development has the potential to lead to increased traffic and congestion. This has the potential to be at least in part mitigated by measures outlined in the Local Plan and the Cornwall Local Transport Plan and the delivery of new infrastructure to support new development, including the proposed Roche bypass.
- 4.6.10 The viability of additional bus and rail services may be supported by future population growth in the area.

5 What are the key issues and objectives that should be a focus?

The Environmental Report must include...

- Key problems / issues and objectives that should be a focus of / provide a framework for assessment

5.1 Key issues

5.1.1 Drawing on the review of the sustainability context and baseline, the SEA Scoping Report (September 2015) was able to identify a range of sustainability problems / issues that should be a particular focus of SEA, ensuring it remains focused. These issues, which have been updated following scoping consultation, are as follows:

Biodiversity

- Parts of the Neighbourhood Area are of significant biodiversity sensitivity. This is reflected by the presence of three internationally designated Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and five nationally designated Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs).
- A number of the units making up the SSSIs present in the Neighbourhood Area have been evaluated as being in an 'unfavourable' condition by Natural England.
- Areas of biodiversity value within the Neighbourhood Area should be protected and enhanced. Their integrity should also be supported through improved ecological connections in the plan area, including through the provision of green infrastructure enhancements.
- Features of biodiversity value such as trees, hedgerows, waterways and meadows should be protected from the impacts of future development and where possible enhanced.
- The integrity of the Biodiversity Action Plan Habitats present in and around the Neighbourhood Area should be supported through the RNP, with due regard to the key habitats and species present at these sites.

Climate change

- An increase in the built footprint of the Neighbourhood Area (associated with the delivery of new housing and employment land) has the potential to increase overall greenhouse gas emissions.
- Road transport is an increasing contributor to greenhouse gas emissions.
- The RNP should seek to support adaptation to the risks associated with climate change in the area.

Historic environment and landscape

- The parish has a rich historic environment, linked to Roche's evolution as an ecclesiastical, administrative, marketing and service centre and industrial and mining development in the parish.
- Traffic (including freight traffic) has significant effects on the quality of the public realm on key routes through the centre of Roche.
- New development has the potential to lead to beneficial and adverse effects on the historic environment, including through affecting the setting of cultural heritage assets and landscape/townscape quality.
- New development could lead to pressures on non-designated sites and landscapes/townscapes, including from loss of key built and natural features.

Land, soil and water resources

- Some areas of land classified as the best and most versatile agricultural land may be present in the Neighbourhood Area. Where possible, new development areas should be directed away from areas classified as the best and most versatile agricultural land in the plan area (in the Neighbourhood Area, Grade 3a).
- The RNP should promote the use of previously developed land in the Neighbourhood Area.
- Developers should be encouraged to adopt sustainable construction practices, including handling waste arisings, recycling, and disposal in a sustainable manner as part of a life cycle approach to resource use.

Population and community

- Recent population growth in Roche has been significantly higher than Cornwall, regional and national comparators.
- The Neighbourhood Area experiences high levels of deprivation.
- The population of the Neighbourhood Area is less qualified than Cornwall, regional and national averages.
- Indicators suggest that levels of health are low in the parish.
- Noise pollution from freight traffic on the main routes through Roche and road safety are concerns.
- Investment in open space, sports facilities and walking and cycling infrastructure should be supported in order to encourage increased physical activity.

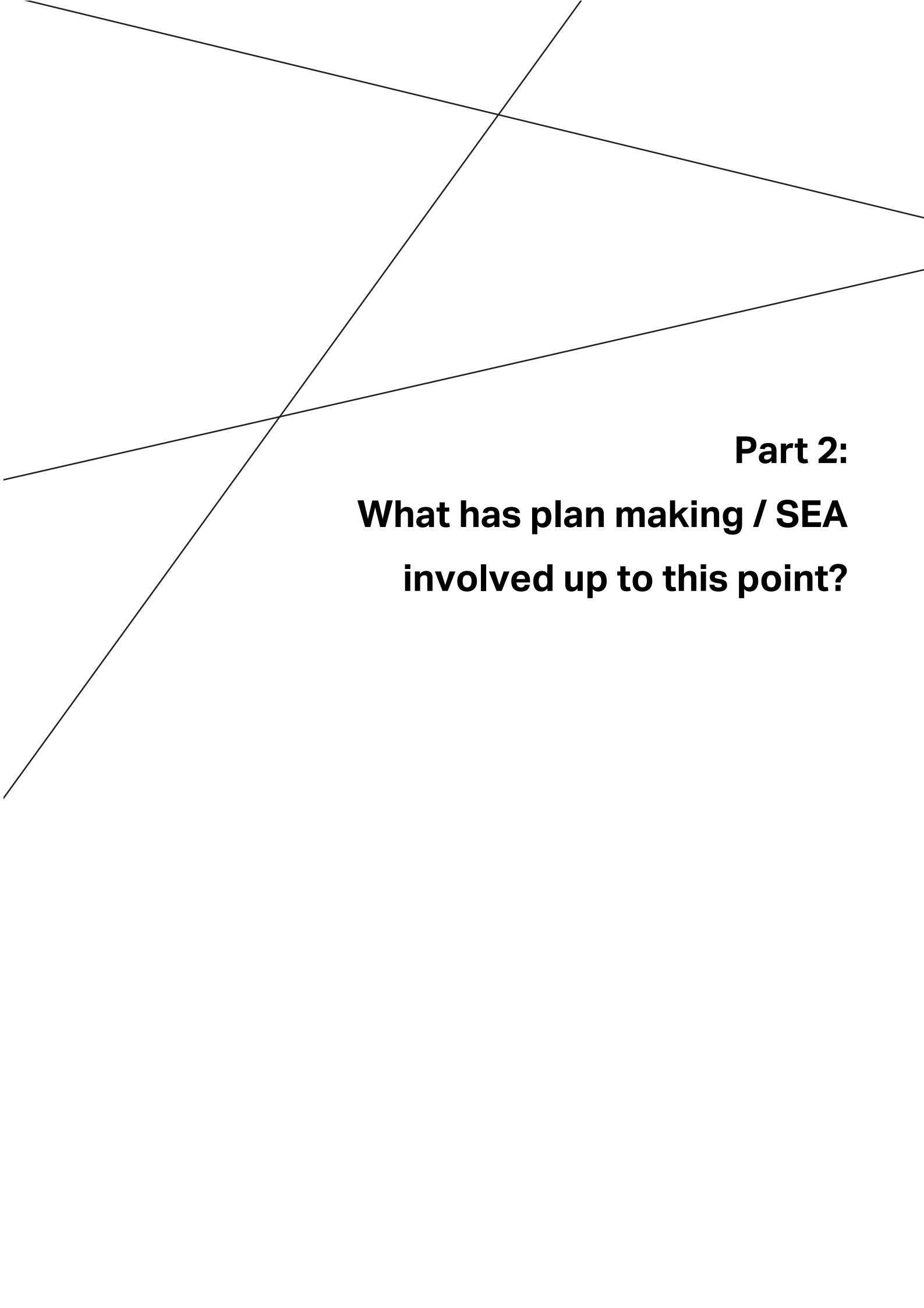
Transportation

- There is high car dependency in the Neighbourhood Area. In this context the proportion of people who travel to work by car or van is significantly higher than Cornwall, regional and national comparators. Car ownership is also high in the parish.
- Significant freight traffic flows through the centre of Roche village has led to significant issues relating to road safety and noise pollution.
- Continued enhancements to public transport and walking and cycling networks should be promoted through the Neighbourhood Plan.

5.1.2 These issues were then translated into an 'SEA Framework' of objectives and decision making questions. This SEA Framework provides a methodological framework for the appraisal of likely significant effects on the baseline. The SEA objectives are set out below, with the full SEA Framework of objectives and decision-making questions developed during the scoping stage of the SEA, and against which the RNP has been assessed, presented in **Appendix II**.

5.2 Environmental themes and objectives

<i>Environmental Theme</i>	<i>SEA Objectives</i>
Biodiversity	Protect and enhance all biodiversity and geological features
Climate change	Promote climate change mitigation in Roche Support the resilience of Roche to the potential effects of climate change
Historic environment and landscape	Protect, maintain and enhance Roche's cultural heritage resource, including its historic environment and archaeological assets. Protect and enhance the character and quality of landscapes and townscapes.
Land, soil and water resources	Ensure the efficient use of land. Promote sustainable waste management solutions that encourage the reduction, re-use and recycling of waste. Use and manage water resources in a sustainable manner.
Population and community	Cater for existing and future residents' needs as well as the needs of different groups in the community, and improve access to local, high-quality community services and facilities. Reduce deprivation and promote a more inclusive and self-contained community. Provide everyone with the opportunity to live in good quality, affordable housing, and ensure an appropriate mix of dwelling sizes, types and tenures. Improve the health and wellbeing of Roche's residents.
Transportation	Promote sustainable transport use and reduce the need to travel.

The page features three thin, black, intersecting lines that create a complex geometric pattern. One line runs diagonally from the top-left towards the bottom-right. Another line runs diagonally from the top-right towards the bottom-left. A third line runs diagonally from the middle-left towards the top-right. These lines intersect to form several triangular and quadrilateral shapes across the page.

Part 2:
What has plan making / SEA
involved up to this point?

6 Introduction to Part 2

The Environmental Report must include...

- An outline of the reasons for selecting the alternatives dealt with
- The likely significant effects on the environment associated with alternatives / an outline of the reasons for selecting the preferred approach in light of alternatives appraisal (and hence, by proxy, a description of how environmental objectives and considerations are reflected in the draft plan)

The 'narrative' of plan-making / SEA up to this point is told within this part of the Environmental Report. Specifically, this section explains how preparation of the current version of the Roche Neighbourhood Plan has been informed by an appraisal of a number of alternative approaches to delivering the Local Plan allocation for housing in the Neighbourhood Area.

6.1 Overview of plan-making / SEA work undertaken since 2014

6.1.1 Plan-making for the RNP has been underway since June 2014. Initial work incorporated an extensive number of informal and formal consultation exercises carried out by the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group, including on the scope of the Neighbourhood Plan.

6.1.2 A range of consultation events have since been carried out for the Neighbourhood Plan, including in September 2014 and February 2015. To support these events, a series of Neighbourhood Plan surveys have been undertaken, including household surveys, school surveys and business surveys. Engagement with stakeholders with an interest in the RNP has also been undertaken, including with landowners and other interested parties.

6.1.3 The following chapter discusses the evolution of the RNP in association with the SEA process.

6.2 Appraisal of reasonable alternatives for the Neighbourhood Plan

Reasonable alternatives

6.2.1 A key element of the SEA process is the appraisal of 'reasonable alternatives' for the RNP. In this context a number of reasonable alternatives have been considered in relation to the scale and location of housing allocations put forward by the RNP for the Neighbourhood Area.

6.2.2 The RNP is being prepared in the context of the emerging Cornwall Local Plan 2010-2030. The *Cornwall Local Plan: Strategic Policies 2010-2030* document is currently being modified following Examination undertaken in summer 2015 and is anticipated to be adopted in 2016. It will, when adopted provide a framework for how future development across Cornwall will be planned and delivered.

6.2.3 At the outset of the Neighbourhood Plan process in 2014, Cornwall Council advised the Neighbourhood Group that the parish's share of the wider China Clay Community Network Area housing allocation was likely to be in the region of 150-300 dwellings. As such, for the purposes of initial consultation on the RNP, the Neighbourhood Group decided to take forward the figure of 300 dwellings.

6.2.4 Following Examination on the *Cornwall Local Plan: Strategic Policies 2010-2030*, modifications are in the process of being made to the proposed Local Plan document. In light of these modifications, Cornwall Council has indicated to the RNP Steering Group Roche's share of the wider China Clay Community Network Area allocation is in the region of 210 dwellings during the plan period.

6.2.5 Whilst Roche's share of housing is in the region of 210 houses, 275-280 dwellings have already been delivered in Roche since 2010, which is in excess of the proposed Local Plan allocation. However the Steering Group recognise the benefits of potentially delivering a higher level of housing for the Neighbourhood Plan, including for the vitality of the parish, the provision of homes for local people, and the opportunities provided by the development of housing at particular sites.

Appraisal of alternative housing numbers to deliver through the RNP

6.2.6 To support decision-making on this element of the RNP, the SEA process considered three broad options relating to the number of houses to be taken forward for the purposes of the Neighbourhood Plan. The three options are as follows:

- **Option 1:** No further delivery of housing over and above that required by the emerging Cornwall Local Plan and already delivered in Roche Parish
- **Option 2:** Delivery of in the region of c.40-60 additional dwellings through the Neighbourhood Plan
- **Option 3:** Delivery of over 75 additional dwellings through the Neighbourhood Plan

6.2.7 These options were considered through the SEA Framework of objectives and appraisal questions developed during scoping (see **Part 1**).

6.2.8 **Table 6.1** presents the findings of the appraisal of Option 1 to Option 3 outlined above. These are presented through the six environmental themes discussed in Section 2.1.3. To support the assessment findings, the three options have been ranked in terms of their sustainability performance against the relevant theme. It is anticipated that this will provide the reader with a likely indication of the comparative sustainability performance of the three options in relation to each theme.

Table 6.1 Appraisal findings: reasonable alternatives linked to overall housing numbers

<p>Option 1: No further delivery of housing over and above that required by the emerging Cornwall Local Plan and already delivered in Roche Parish</p> <p>Option 2: Delivery of in the region of c.40-60 additional dwellings through the Roche Neighbourhood Plan</p> <p>Option 3: Delivery of over 75 additional dwellings through the Roche Neighbourhood Plan</p>				
Theme	Discussion of potential effects and relative merits of options	Rank of preference		
		Opt 1	Opt 2	Opt 3
Biodiversity	<p>Effects on biodiversity are likely to be increased through the delivery of a higher level of housing in the Neighbourhood Area. In this context, Option 3, through delivering a larger number of dwellings has the potential to lead to an increased magnitude of effects on biodiversity assets present locally, including the internationally and nationally designated sites present in the parish. This includes through habitat loss and direct and indirect impacts on species.</p> <p>A larger scale of housing delivery however may increase opportunities for biodiversity enhancements in Roche, such as green infrastructure improvements and enhancements to ecological networks.</p> <p>All allocations have the potential to have impacts on biodiversity assets if located inappropriately and have poor design and layout. Likewise all allocations have the potential to promote net gains in biodiversity value. In this context, for all sites, potential effects on biodiversity depending on elements such as the provision of green infrastructure to accompany new development areas and the retention and incorporation of biodiversity features.</p>	1	2	3

Option 1: No further delivery of housing over and above that required by the emerging Cornwall Local Plan and already delivered in Roche Parish				
Option 2: Delivery of in the region of c.40-60 additional dwellings through the Roche Neighbourhood Plan				
Option 3: Delivery of over 75 additional dwellings through the Roche Neighbourhood Plan				
Theme	Discussion of potential effects and relative merits of options	Rank of preference		
		Opt 1	Opt 2	Opt 3
Climate change	<p>In terms of climate change mitigation, the options which facilitate an increased level of development (Option 3, and to a lesser extent, Option 2) will lead to an increased level of greenhouse gas emissions due to an enlarged built footprint of the Roche Neighbourhood Area.</p> <p>Otherwise, in terms of greenhouse gas emissions, road transport is an increasingly significant contributor to emissions in the plan area. As such the extent to which the three options have the potential to support climate change mitigation through facilitating a reduced level of car dependency is a key element. In this context, Option 2, through promoting smaller scale housing provision across the Neighbourhood Area than Option 3, has increased potential to facilitate the development of new housing at locations which are more integrated with the existing built up area of Roche. This has the potential to allow at some locations easier access to services and facilities by sustainable modes of transport such as walking and cycling. However Options 2 and 3, through facilitating larger scale sites, may enable more effective improvements to walking and cycling and public transport links through the infrastructure opportunities afforded by larger allocations.</p> <p>In terms of climate change adaptation, enhancements to Roche's green infrastructure networks will be a key means of helping the plan area adapt to the effects of climate change. This includes through helping to regulate extreme temperatures and regulate surface water run-off. In this context the direct provision of green infrastructure improvements to accompany new development areas may be more achievable through the larger scale development proposed through Options 2 and 3, including through mechanisms such as the community infrastructure levy. The effect of new development areas on fluvial and surface water flooding depends on their location and the implementation of sustainable urban drainage systems.</p>	1	2	3

Option 1: No further delivery of housing over and above that required by the emerging Cornwall Local Plan and already delivered in Roche Parish				
Option 2: Delivery of in the region of c.40-60 additional dwellings through the Roche Neighbourhood Plan				
Option 3: Delivery of over 75 additional dwellings through the Roche Neighbourhood Plan				
Theme	Discussion of potential effects and relative merits of options	Rank of preference		
		Opt 1	Opt 2	Opt 3
Historic environment and landscape	<p>Through increasing the scale of development to be taken forward for the purposes of the Neighbourhood Plan, Option 3 has increased potential to lead to impacts on landscape character and the setting of the historic environment. This includes through loss of landscape features, visual impacts and impacts on noise quality linked to increased traffic flows. In this context Option 1 through promoting limited development, is less likely to lead to significant effects on landscape and townscape character.</p> <p>Options 2 and 3 increase opportunities for supporting the reuse and rejuvenation of existing heritage assets in the Neighbourhood Area. This will support the plan area's historic environment resource, if high quality design and layout is incorporated within new provision.</p> <p>Option 2 however provides a balance between providing opportunities to rejuvenate and revitalise existing underutilised heritage assets and protecting landscape character, visual amenity and the setting of the historic environment.</p>	2	1	3
Land, water and soil resources	<p>Options 2 and 3, which will deliver a higher level of development in the Neighbourhood Area, have the potential to increase development on greenfield land in the Neighbourhood Area. The options also have increased potential to lead to the loss of areas of the best and most versatile agricultural land present in the parish (i.e. Grade 3a land). This includes the Grade 3a land present to the west and north east of Roche village.</p> <p>However delivery of housing through the RNP may also support the revitalisation of previously developed and degraded land in the Roche area. In this context Option 2 may enable a scale of development which leads to increased opportunities for rejuvenating underutilised land, whilst also not leading to the significant loss of greenfield land.</p> <p>In terms of water quality, it is difficult to come to a conclusion regarding the potential for development at any given location to result in negative effects without an understanding of the design measures that will be put in place. For example sustainable drainage systems – SuDS – are an effective means of minimising surface water runoff and hence pollution. However it should be noted that there is likely to be more scope for the implementation of measures such as SuDS within the larger scale of development promoted by Options 2 and 3.</p>	2	1	3

Option 1: No further delivery of housing over and above that required by the emerging Cornwall Local Plan and already delivered in Roche Parish				
Option 2: Delivery of in the region of c.40-60 additional dwellings through the Roche Neighbourhood Plan				
Option 3: Delivery of over 75 additional dwellings through the Roche Neighbourhood Plan				
Theme	Discussion of potential effects and relative merits of options	Rank of preference		
		Opt 1	Opt 2	Opt 3
Population and community	<p>In terms of affordable housing, such provision may be easier to deliver through the larger allocations likely to be delivered through Option 2 and Option 3. Whilst all new developments involving one or more dwellings are liable for the community infrastructure levy, concentrating the delivery of housing at larger sites may help enable the securing of additional contributions to site specific mitigation through Section 106 planning agreements (it should be noted however that such contributions are typically required to make a development proposal acceptable in planning terms that would not otherwise be acceptable). Recent legislation has introduced a 10 unit threshold for affordable housing contributions. As such Options 2 and 3 have increased opportunity for delivering affordable housing in the village</p> <p>In terms of the provision of services and facilities, the delivery of CIL monies and similar mechanisms are likely to be more achievable through the larger scale allocations facilitated through Options 2 and 3. Similarly potential enhancements to the vitality of the village provided by an increased population growth through these options may support the availability and viability of services, facilities and amenities.</p> <p>Through delivering a larger number of dwellings in the vicinity of Roche, Options 2 and 3 has increased potential to support the economic vitality and viability of the parish. This is linked to an increase in the population of the Neighbourhood Area through these options.</p> <p>The delivery of housing provision through larger scale allocations has the potential to concentrate effects on road safety and noise quality from increased traffic flows at certain locations. This may have effects on the health and wellbeing of residents. Effects however depend on the location of new development areas and the integration of elements such as sustainable transport and green infrastructure provision.</p>	3	2	1
Transportation	<p>Option 1, through promoting smaller scale housing provision across the plan area, has increased potential to facilitate the development of new housing at locations which are more integrated with the existing built up area of Roche. This has the potential to allow at some locations easier access to services and facilities by sustainable modes of transport such as walking and cycling.</p> <p>However, the provision of new and improved sustainable transport infrastructure to accompany new housing development, including pedestrian/cycle and public transport links may be more feasible with the larger scale of development proposed through Options 2 and 3.</p>	3	2	1

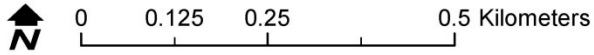
- 6.2.9 The Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group came to the conclusion that the delivery of housing through the RNP should reflect Option 2. It was viewed that delivering housing to this level would provide an appropriate balance between ensuring the protection of townscape character, local distinctiveness, the historic environment and biodiversity whilst also providing opportunities for delivering housing need and supporting the vitality and viability of the parish. It was also viewed that such an approach would enable enhancements to be secured to cultural heritage assets, green infrastructure networks and local services and facilities whilst also limiting the adverse effects of development in the Neighbourhood Area.
- 6.2.10 As such, in the region of 50 additional houses are to be delivered through the RNP.

Assessment of alternative appropriate locations for taking forward housing through the RNP

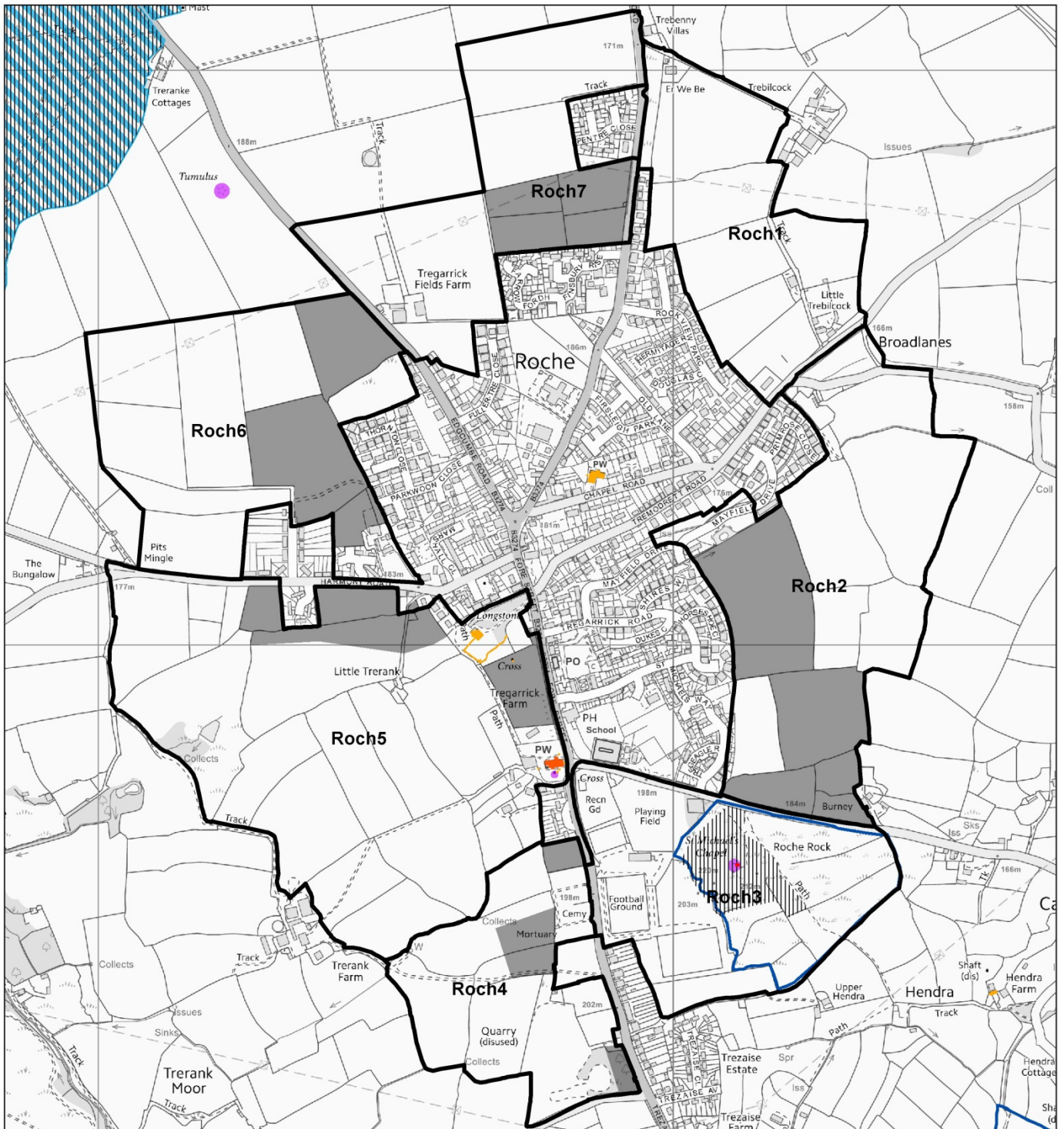
- 6.2.11 To consider the appropriateness of different locations for housing development in Roche, a 'Points of the Compass' analysis was undertaken. The analysis considered the relative sustainability merits of promoting development at various broad locations in the vicinity of Roche. Loosely reflecting the various 'points of the compass', these areas comprise potential broad locations for development in the vicinity of Roche.
- 6.2.12 The segments considered, and the environmental constraints present, are identified in the maps below. **Table 6.2** subsequently evaluates the key environmental constraints present in each of the broad areas proposed, including related to biodiversity, flood risk, the historic environment, landscape quality, water, and agricultural land quality.

Key














- | | |
|---|--|
|  Points of the compass segments |  Listed buildings - Grade I |
|  SHLAA sites |  Listed buildings - Grade II* |
|  Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty |  Listed buildings - Grade II |
|  World Heritage Site |  Special Areas for Conservation |
|  Scheduled Monuments |  Special Protection Areas |
|  Registered Parks and Gardens |  Sites of Special Scientific Interest |
|  Conservation areas |  County Wildlife Sites |

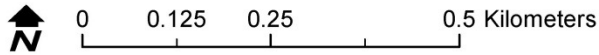


© Crown copyright and database rights 2015 Ordnance Survey 100049047. Strategic Developments and Policy\15_049



Key

- | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
|  | Points of the compass segments |  | Surface run off flood zones - 1 in 30 years |
|  | SHLAA sites |  | Surface run off flood zones - 1 in 100 years |
|  | Biodiversity Action Plan Priority Habitat |  | Surface run off flood zones - 1 in 1000 years |
|  | Flood zone 2 |  | Grade 2 |
|  | Flood zone 3a |  | Grade 3 |
|  | Flood zone 3b |  | Grade 3a |
|  | Groundwater source protection zones | | |



© Crown copyright and database rights 2015 Ordnance Survey 100049047. Strategic Developments and Policy\15_049

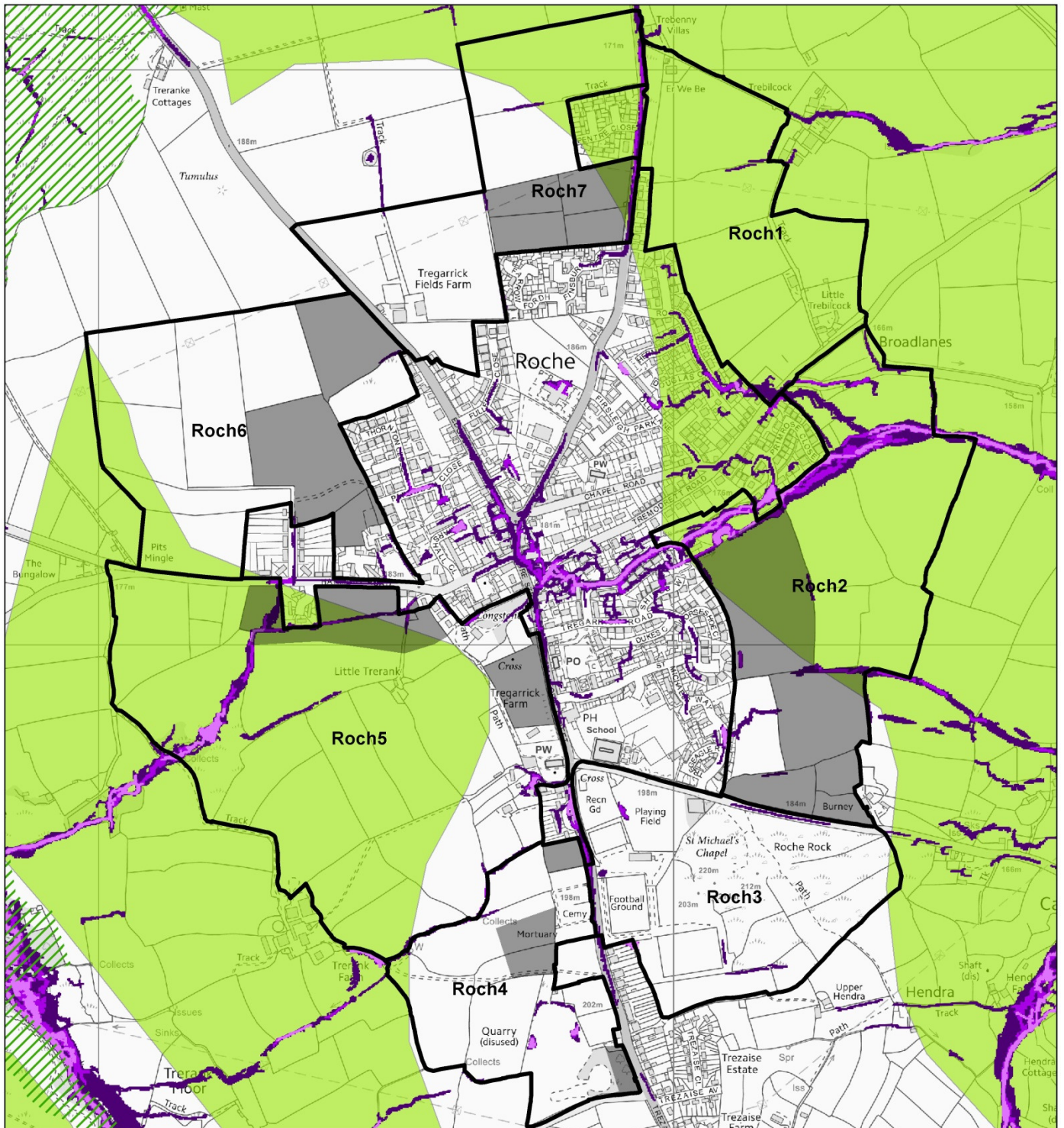


Table 6.2 Appraisal findings: reasonable alternatives linked to broad areas for housing development

Area	Key constraints	SEA Themes for which constraints exist
Roch1	<p>Whilst the Goss and Tregoss Moors SSSI is located approximately 800m to the west of Roch1, the area is located within the SSSI's Impact Risk Zone (IRZ³⁶) relating to residential developments of 100 units or more. The area covered by the SSSI is also internationally designated as the Breney Common and Goss & Tregoss Moors SAC.</p> <p>Roch1 is covered by grade 3 agricultural land. It is uncertain whether this comprises land classified as the best and most versatile agricultural land (i.e. grade 3a).</p> <p>The land slopes from the west to the east/south east. Development in this area would be likely to affect views from properties on Rock View Parc and Victoria Road.</p> <p>A surface water flood zone passes through the southern edge of the area on Tremodrett Road.</p>	Biodiversity; Land, Soil and Water Resources
Roch2	<p>There is an east - west 1 in 30 and 1 in 100 year surface water flood risk zone present in the north of the area. The majority of Roch2 is covered by grade 3 agricultural land. It is uncertain whether this comprises land classified as the best and most versatile agricultural land (i.e. grade 3a).</p> <p>The northern part of the area is well vegetated, and although does not Biodiversity Action Plan Priority Habitat, is likely to be of ecological value.</p> <p>Whilst the Goss and Tregoss Moors SSSI is located approximately 1,300m to the west of Roch2, the area is located within the SSSI's IRZ relating to residential developments of 100 units or more. The area covered by the SSSI is also internationally designated as the Breney Common and Goss & Tregoss Moors SAC.</p> <p>The topography rises from north to south in the northern part of the area and (more gently) rises from west to east in the southern part. As such views would likely be affected from properties on Primrose Close, Tregarrick Road, Horseshoe Close and St Michael's Way.</p> <p>Development in the south of Roch2 would affect the setting of Roche Rock, which is a key landscape feature and area of historic environment interest in Roche.</p>	Land, Soil and Water Resources Biodiversity, Historic Environment and Landscape
Roch3	<p>Roch3 is heavily constrained. Roche Rock SSSI, designated for its geodiversity interest, is located in the area. As reflected by the presence of IRZs, within 50 meters of Roche rock, all planning applications are considered a risk, and outside of 50 metres, applications for 100 or more residential houses are considered a risk.</p> <p>The medieval Chapel of St Michael is also present here, which is a scheduled monument. Roche Rock is a distinctive local landmark for the local area and as such is a key landscape asset.</p> <p>A County Wildlife Site covers the eastern half of the area.</p> <p>A number of key recreation assets are present in the west of the area, including the football pitch, tennis courts, cricket ground and play area. These areas are also important to the setting of Roche Rock.</p>	Land, Soil and Water Resources; Biodiversity; Historic Environment and Landscape

³⁶ SSSI Impact Risk Zones are a GIS tool/dataset which maps zones around each SSSI according to the particular sensitivities of the features for which it is notified. They specify the types of development that have the potential to have adverse impacts at a given location. Natural England is a statutory consultee on development proposals that might impact on SSSIs.

Area	Key constraints	SEA Themes for which constraints exist
Roch4	<p>The northern part of Roch4 is in close proximity to the recreational assets on the eastern side of Trevaie Road and is accessible on foot to the centre of Roche.</p> <p>Much of the area is well screened from other properties by topography and existing vegetation. The land is unlikely to comprise the Best and Most Versatile Agricultural Land.</p> <p>The southern part of the area is well vegetated and wooded, and although not Biodiversity Action Plan Priority Habitat, is likely to be of ecological value.</p> <p>The Goss and Tregoss Moors SSSI Breney Common and Goss & Tregoss Moors SAC is located approximately 260m from the western boundary of Roch4. The area is within an Impact Risk Zone relating to 100 residential units or more. There are minor areas of surface water flood zone in the vicinity of the disused quarry.</p>	Biodiversity
Roch5	<p>The eastern part of the Roch5 is heavily constrained by cultural heritage assets. In this context there is one grade II* listed building (the Church of St Gomonda), five grade II listed structures and one scheduled monument (a churchyard cross) present in the vicinity of the church. There are also three listed buildings / structures in the vicinity of Glebe Field / the Old Rectory. The same area comprises undisturbed or semi-disturbed grass land and therefore has the potential to be of ecological value.</p> <p>The majority of Roch4 is covered by Grade 3 agricultural land and there is a 1 in 30 and 1 in 100 year flood zone present in the west of the area.</p> <p>The topography of the land falls gently from east to west. Development in the northern part of the area would be likely to affect views southwards from properties in the vicinity of Harmony Road and the open perspective of this part of Roche.</p> <p>The Goss and Tregoss Moors SSSI Breney Common and Goss & Tregoss Moors SAC is located approximately 270m from the western boundary of Roch5. The area is located within an Impact Risk Zone relating to 100 residential units or more.</p>	Historic Environment and Landscape, Land, Soil and Water Resources, Biodiversity,
Roch6	<p>The Goss and Tregoss Moors SSSI/Breney Common and Goss & Tregoss Moors SAC is located approximately 270m from the western boundary of Roch5. The area is within an Impact Risk Zone relating to 100 residential units or more relating to the SSSI.</p> <p>A small area at the western boundary of Roch6 is covered by grade 3 agricultural land. It is uncertain whether this comprises land classified as the best and most versatile agricultural land (i.e. grade 3a).</p> <p>The topography of Roch6 is relatively flat. Development in this area has the potential to affect views from properties at Thornton Close and Edgcumbe Road in the north east part of Roch6, and those located off Harmony Road in the south of the area.</p>	Biodiversity, Land, Soil and Water Resources
Roche7	<p>The north eastern part of Roch7 is covered by grade 3 agricultural land and there is a small linear 1 in 100 year surface water flood risk zone along its eastern boundary.</p> <p>In terms of biodiversity considerations, the central part of the area comprises small fields with numerous hedgerows and areas of vegetation likely to be of ecological value. The Goss and Tregoss Moors SSSI / Breney Common and Goss & Tregoss Moors SAC is located approximately 520m from the north western corner of Roch7. The whole area is within an IRZ relating to 100 residential units or more for the SSSI.</p> <p>Views from properties at Fuller-Tre Close, Farrow Fordh/Finsbury Rise and Pentre Close and Victoria Road have the potential to be affected by development in this area.</p>	Biodiversity, Land, Soil and Water Resources

6.3 Development of Neighbourhood Plan policies

6.3.1 To support the implementation of the vision and objectives for the Neighbourhood Plan discussed in Section 1.1.4, the Regulation 14 version of the RNP (December 2015) put forward 29 policies to guide development in the Neighbourhood Area. These policies were developed following extensive community consultation and evidence gathering

6.3.2 These policies were assessed through the SEA process and two recommendations were made, as presented in the Environmental Report accompanying the Regulation 14 version of the RNP:

- The assessment highlighted that no significant effects are likely to result from the draft plan on the internationally and nationally designated sites present in the parish. However the potential for in-combination effects from new development areas in Roche and the delivery of the A30-St Austell link road cannot be discounted in the longer term. Whilst these effects will be considered in depth through the forthcoming Environmental Impact Assessment process to be undertaken for the road scheme, careful management of new development in Roche will need to take place in conjunction with the proposed delivery of the scheme.
- Whilst the RNP supports sustainable transport use, there is additional potential for the RNP to further support the delivery of enhanced cycle links and networks in the parish. This includes between Roche and Victoria in association with the proposed pedestrian enhancements along Victoria Road.

6.3.3 Following the completion of consultation on the Regulation 14 version of the RNP, the policies were updated to reflect comments received. The latest Submission version of the RNP therefore incorporates these updated policies.

6.3.4 The updated policies, and the eight themes under which they are grouped, are as follows:

A: Housing Needs and Allocations

- Policy A1 - Roche village
- Policy A2 - Trezaise/Higher Trezaise
- Policy A3 - School places

B: Traffic Issues

- Policy B1 - Link Road west of Roche
- Policy B2 - Potential development of Site D

C: Employment and Commercial Services

- Policy C1 - Employment and development
- Policy C2 - Mixed use development
- Policy C3 - Protection of existing business premises
- Policy C4 - Co-op car park

D) Local Green Space Designations

- Policy D1 - Local Green Space designations
- Policy D1(a): The Old Fairground
- Policy D1(b): The Glebe Meadow
- Policy D1(c): The play and recreation area
- Policy D1(d): The duck pond and surrounding green space
- Policy D2 - A coordinated approach to green spaces

E) Renewables

- Policy E1 - Wind and solar farms

F) Historic Environment

- Policy F1 - Assessment of historic assets
- Policy F2 - Area of special architectural and historic interest
- Policy F3 - Protecting local character
- Policy F4 - Preservation of settlement boundaries
- Policy F5 - Retaining community identity
- Policy F6 - Designated heritage assets
- Policy F7 - Non-designated heritage assets
- Policy F8 - Protection of archaeological assets

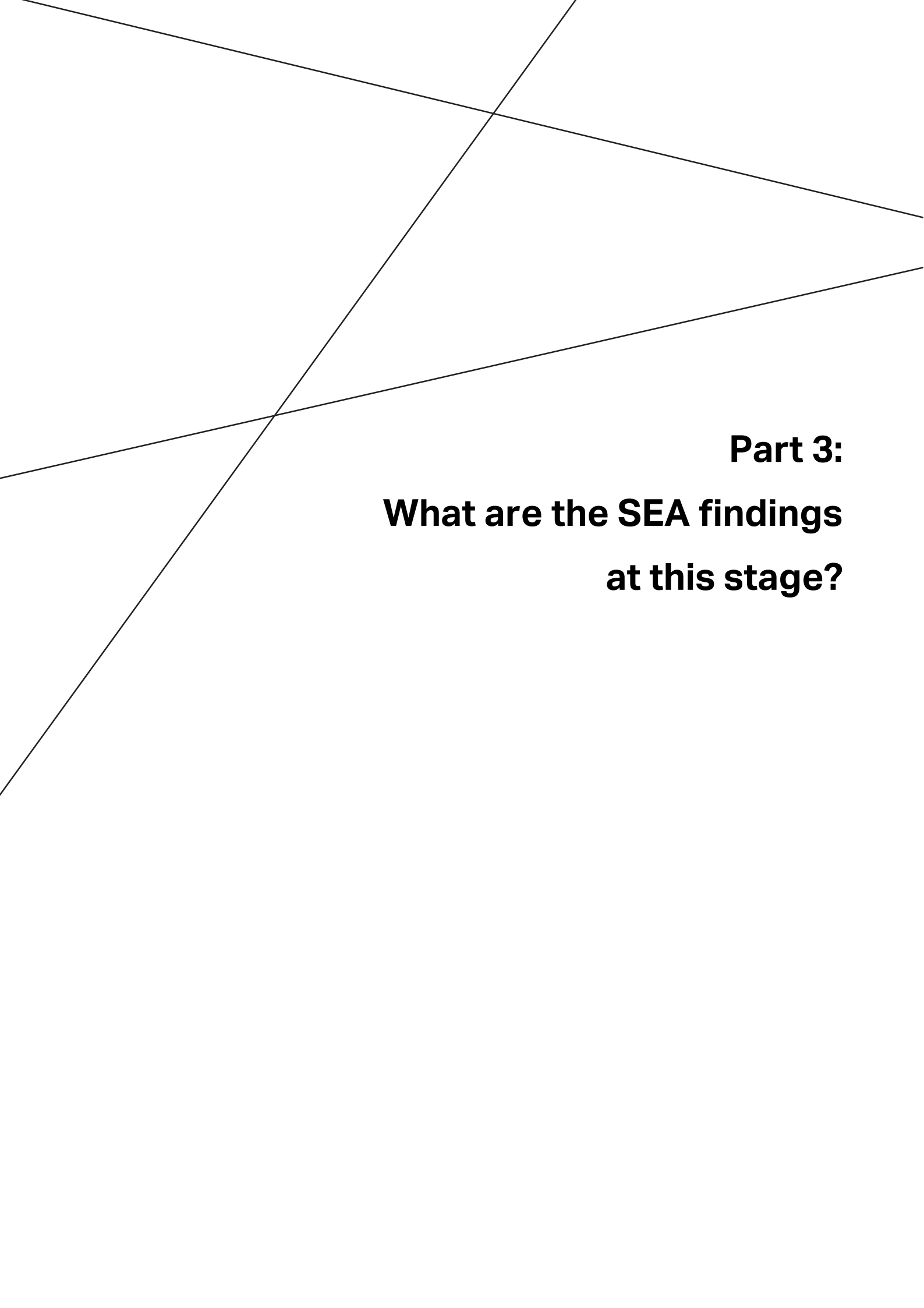
G) Natural Environment

- Policy G1 – Landscape
- Policy G2 – Conserving and enhancing biodiversity and geodiversity

H) Design

- Policy H1 - Reinforcing character and heritage
- Policy H2 - Ensuring the highest standards of development, protecting landscape character
- Policy H3 - Maintaining a sense of place

6.3.5 **Part 3** of this Environmental Report considers these policies through appraising the current Submission version of the RNP.

The page features three thin, black, intersecting lines that create a series of geometric shapes, including triangles and quadrilaterals, across the white background. The lines are positioned in the upper half of the page, with one line running diagonally from the top-left towards the bottom-right, another running diagonally from the top-right towards the bottom-left, and a third running horizontally across the middle of the upper section.

Part 3:
**What are the SEA findings
at this stage?**

7 Appraisal of the current Submission version of the RNP

The report must include...

- The likely significant effects associated with the draft plan approach
- The measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects of implementing the draft plan approach

7.1 Introduction

The aim of Part 3 is to present appraisal findings and recommendations in relation to the current Submission version of the RNP. Part 3 is structured as follows:

- Sections 7.3 to 7.8 presents an appraisal of the current Submission version of the RNP under the six environmental theme headings; and
- Section 7.9 discusses overall conclusions at this current stage and recommendations for the next stage of plan-making.

7.2 Approach to the appraisal

7.2.1 The appraisal is structured under the six environmental theme headings discussed.

7.2.2 For each theme 'significant effects' of the draft plan on the baseline are predicted and evaluated. Account is taken of the criteria presented within Schedule 2 of the Regulations.³⁷ So, for example, account is taken of the probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of effects as far as possible. Cumulative effects are also considered. These effect 'characteristics' are described within the assessment as appropriate.

7.2.3 Every effort is made to identify / evaluate effects accurately; however, this is inherently challenging given the high level nature of the plan. The ability to predict effects accurately is also limited by understanding of the baseline and the nature of future planning applications. Because of the uncertainties involved, there is a need to exercise caution when identifying and evaluating significant effects and ensure all assumptions are explained. In many instances it is not possible to predict significant effects, but it is possible to comment on merits (or otherwise) in more general terms.

7.2.4 It is important to note that effects are predicted taking into account the criteria presented within Schedule 2 of the SEA Regulations.³⁸ So, for example, account is taken of the probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of effects as far as possible. Cumulative effects are also considered (i.e. where the effects of the Plan may combine with the effects of other planned or on-going activity that is outside the control of the RNP). These effect 'characteristics' are described within the appraisal as appropriate.

³⁷ Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004

³⁸ Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004

7.3 Biodiversity

Relevant sustainability objectives

<i>SEA Objectives</i>	<i>SEA assessment questions:</i>
Protect and enhance all biodiversity and geological features	<p>Will the option/proposal help to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support continued improvements to the status of the Breney Common and Goss and Tregoss Moors SAC and Goss and Tregoss Moors SSSI? • Support continued improvements to the status of the River Camel SAC and River Camel Valley and Tributaries SSSI? • Support continued improvements to the status of the St Austell Clay Pits SAC and SSSI? • Support continued improvements to the geological interest of the Tregonetha & Belowda Downs - Belowda Beacon SSSI and Roche Rock SSSI? • Protect and enhance semi-natural habitats? • Protect and enhance priority habitats, and the habitat of priority species? • Achieve a net gain in biodiversity? • Increase the connectivity between existing habitats? • Increase the resilience of biodiversity in the plan area to the effects of climate change? • Support access to, interpretation and understanding of biodiversity and geodiversity? • Limitation the effects of air pollution on biodiversity sites, including internationally and nationally designated sites?

Summary of the appraisal of the Draft Plan

- 7.3.1 In terms of the internationally and national designated nature conservation sites present in the parish, SSSI Impact Risk Zones are a GIS tool/dataset which maps zones around each SSSI according to the particular sensitivities of the features for which it is notified. They specify the types of development that have the potential to have adverse impacts at a given location. Natural England is a statutory consultee on development proposals that might impact on SSSIs.
- 7.3.2 Much of the village is located within an Impact Risk Zone for Goss and Tregoss Moors SSSI. However, this relates to residential developments of 100 units or more. As the RNP only seeks to deliver in the region of 50 dwellings in the plan period, likely effects on the SSSI are likely to be limited. Whilst no significant effects are likely to result from the draft plan on the internationally and nationally designated sites present in the parish, the potential for in-combination effects from new development areas in Roche and the delivery of the A30-St Austell link road cannot be discounted in the longer term. This is however recognised through the RNP. In particular **Policy B1 (Link Road west of Roche)** seeks to preclude any effects on key biodiversity sites from the scheme through only supporting such a scheme where it “*will not result in an adverse effect on the integrity of any internationally important wildlife sites, either alone or in combination with other plans and projects.*”
- 7.3.3 The current version of the RNP sets out a range of provisions which will 1) help limit potential effects from new development on features and areas of biodiversity interest in the Neighbourhood Area and 2) which will support enhancements. In particular **Policy G2 (Conserving and enhancing biodiversity and geodiversity)** sets out a range of provisions relating to the protection of internationally and nationally designated biodiversity and geodiversity sites in the vicinity of the parish, and seeks to preclude adverse impacts on these sites. The policy also seeks to protect and enhance locally designated sites of biological or geological interest, including Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation and Regionally Important Geology Sites, as well as Biodiversity Action Plan priority habitats and species. Where ‘unavoidable’ effects on these local sites have the potential to take place, the policy stipulates that the new development will be expected to provide for nesting

birds, roosting bats and hedgehogs and maximise opportunities for enhancing wildlife in new areas of public open space. This will be further supported by **Policy G1 (Landscape)**, which seeks to ensure that new development will protect the key habitats of Cornish hedges, stone walls and hedgerows, and the **Design Guide**, which sets out a range of provisions for protecting and enhancing biodiversity offer through appropriate design and layout.

- 7.3.4 Policy G1 and G2 will be further supported by **Policy D1 (incorporating D1a-d)**, which has a strong focus on protecting and enhancing areas of green space in the parish. This will be further reinforced by **Policy D2**, which recognises the value of a co-ordinated green infrastructure approach to open space provision in the parish for delivering multifunctional benefits. The application of the Roche Design Guide will also facilitate the design of new development with biodiversity interests in mind. As such these policies have significant potential for delivering enhancements to habitats and ecological networks in and around Roche through the delivery of green infrastructure improvements in the parish.
- 7.3.5 In terms of the three sites allocated through the RNP, these are not located in locations with significant ecological sensitivity. Effects which do have the potential occur however will be limited by the policy approaches put forward by the RNP described above.

7.4 Climate Change

Relevant sustainability objectives

<i>SEA Objectives</i>	<i>SEA assessment questions:</i>
Promote climate change mitigation in Roche	<p>Will the option/proposal help to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limit the increase in the carbon footprint of the plan area from population growth? • Promote the use of sustainable modes of transport, including walking, cycling and public transport and reduce the need to travel? • Increase number of new developments meeting sustainable design criteria? • Generate energy from low or zero carbon sources? • Reduce energy consumption from non-renewable resources?
Support the resilience of Roche to the potential effects of climate change	<p>Will the option/proposal help to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that no development takes place in areas at higher risk of flooding, taking into the likely effects of climate change into account? • Improve green infrastructure networks in the plan area to support adaptation to the potential effects of climate change? • Sustainably manage water run-off using SuDS, ensuring that the risk of flooding is not increased (either within the plan area or downstream) and where possible reduce flood risk?

Summary of the appraisal of the Draft Plan

- 7.4.1 In terms of climate change mitigation, road transport is an increasingly significant contributor to greenhouse gas emissions in the Roche area. In this context the three sites proposed for allocations are located in good proximity to the centre of Roche with its range of services, facilities, amenities and public transport links. This will support climate change mitigation through reducing the need for residents to travel by the private car and limiting the need to travel. This will be supported by **Policy A1**, which precludes development outside of the settlement boundary of Roche village. A reduction in emissions from transport will also be supported by **Policy H1**, which seeks to ensure that developers prepare Design and Access Statements which address pedestrian and cyclist provision and **Policy C1** and **C2**, which encourage the establishment of a safe pedestrian route from Victoria

to Roche and seek to ensure that new employment development is accompanied by the preparation of travel plans.

- 7.4.2 In relation to renewable energy provision, **Policy E1** takes a relatively restrictive approach to the delivery of wind and solar provision in the parish. However, it also supports new provision were it has community backing. However, in terms of energy efficiency, **Policy A1** supports the provisions of the Cornwall Local Plan in regards to the sustainability of new development and the **Design Guide** supports the integration of sustainable design within new development.
- 7.4.3 With regard to residential developments, the scope to set standards for residential building performance has been recently and radically curtailed by the Government's Housing Standards Review. The Ministerial Statement published on 25th March 2015 outlines the Government's new national planning policy on the setting of technical standards for new dwellings and Local Plan/Neighbourhood Plan making. The Code for Sustainable Homes is being formally withdrawn so targets against this should no longer be set in policy. As such it is recognised that it is not appropriate for the RNP to set specific standards relating to the sustainability performance of new housing in the parish.
- 7.4.4 Enhancements to green infrastructure networks promote climate change mitigation through supporting carbon sequestration and promoting sustainable modes of transport, and climate change adaptation through helping to limit the effects of extreme weather events and regulating surface water run-off. In this context **Policy D1** (incorporating **D1a-d**) and **Policy D2** will support the ongoing development of high quality multifunctional green infrastructure networks in the parish.
- 7.4.5 In relation to flood risk in the Neighbourhood Area, the addressing of issues linked to surface water flooding are likely to be supported by the provisions of the NPPF. Likewise, the flood risk, SuDS and surface water flooding policies proposed by the *Cornwall Local Plan: Strategic Policies 2010-2030* will further help limit adverse effects in this regard.

7.5 Historic environment and landscape

Relevant sustainability objectives

SEA Objectives SEA assessment questions:

Protect, maintain and enhance Roche's cultural heritage resource, including its historic environment and archaeological assets.	<p>Will the option/proposal help to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conserve and enhance cultural heritage assets and their settings? • Conserve and enhance local diversity and distinctiveness? • Support the integrity of the historic setting of key features including the Chapel of St Michael at Roche Rock, the Church of St Gomonda and features of mining heritage interest? • Support access to, interpretation and understanding of the historic environment?
Protect and enhance the character and quality of landscapes and townscapes.	<p>Will the option/proposal help to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conserve and enhance landscape and townscape features? • Support the integrity of the setting of the key heritage features, including the Chapel of St Michael, the tower of St Gomonda, Glebe Meadow and features of mining heritage?

Summary of the appraisal of the Draft Plan

- 7.5.1 The policies proposed for the RNP have a central focus on protecting and enhancing landscape and townscape quality in the Neighbourhood Area, and supporting the conservation and enhancement of the historic environment.
- 7.5.2 In relation to the historic environment, **Policy F1** seeks to ensure that assessment of historic significance is undertaken during development or management proposals and **Policy F2** seeks to ensure that development proposals within the locally significant Area of Special Architectural and Historic Interest is consistent with local character. **Policy F6** seeks to ensure that effects on designated heritage assets are resisted and planning permission is not granted unless in exceptional circumstances of 'overriding public interest'. The RNP also recognises through **Policy F7** the value of undesignated heritage and landscape assets, such as associated with field patterns and hedgerows/banks and farmsteads/hamlets and, through **Policy F8**, the need for development proposals to examine the potential for, and address provisions related to, archaeological potential.
- 7.5.3 The setting of historic environment will also be supported by the policies which seek to protect and enhance townscape and landscape quality. In this context **Policy F3** seeks to protect areas designated as Community Open Space, and preserve and enhance key views, including associated with Roche Rock and moorland views. The setting of Roche will be further supported by **Policy F4**, which seeks to ensure that new development at settlement boundaries is consistent with the topography and form of the settlement and **Policy H1** seeks to ensure that all development is accompanied by a Design and Access Statement.
- 7.5.4 A number of the policies also seek to ensure that all development proposals demonstrate that they adhere to the Roche Design Guide. In this context the **Design Guide** provides a robust basis for the protection and enhancement of townscape and landscape quality and the historic environment in the vicinity of Roche through setting out features which local people regard as important, and suggesting ways in which these can be maintained and enhanced through a series of development guidelines.
- 7.5.5 In terms of maintaining the distinctiveness of Roche village and surrounding settlements, **Policy F5** reinforces the designation of a green gap between Roche and Victoria. This will support the distinct identities between the two settlements. Similarly, **Policy A2** will support the distinctiveness of Trezaise as a separate entity through limiting infill development along Trezaise Road.
- 7.5.6 **Policy D1** (incorporating **D1a-d**) and **Policy D2** provide a focus on protecting and enhancing open spaces and supporting green infrastructure enhancements. Through supporting the ongoing development of high quality multifunctional green infrastructure networks in the parish, the policies will support the protection of key views, protect and enhance the setting of the historic environment, and support enhancements to the public realm. This will be further reinforced by **Policy G1 (Landscape)**, which sets out a range of provisions for protecting landscape and townscape character, including through retaining key views and vistas, maintaining and restoring key landscape features such as boundary features and ancient field systems and seeking to ensure that new buildings reflect traditional styles and materials.
- 7.5.7 Whilst the RNP is not itself able to directly deliver the bypass for Roche associated with the proposed A30-St Austell link road, its support for the scheme will help facilitate longer term significant positive effects associated with the quality of the public realm / townscape of Roche village and the setting of the historic environment along the key routes through the village. This will be further supported by **Policy B1**, which seeks to divert HGVs from the centre of Roche. This is significant as existing HGV flows are currently a significant detriment to the quality of the public realm and townscape in Roche.
- 7.5.8 The three allocations proposed by the RNP are not located in areas with high townscape or landscape sensitivity. Otherwise, in terms of new development in the parish, **Policy A1**, which

seeks to promote self-build, has further potential to support townscape quality by promoting a varied and distinctive streetscape by limiting the uniformity of new areas of housing.

7.6 Land, soil and water resources

Relevant sustainability objectives

<i>SEA Objectives</i>	<i>SEA assessment questions:</i>
Ensure the efficient use of land.	Will the option/proposal help to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote the use of previously developed land? Avoid the development of the best and most versatile agricultural land (in the Neighbourhood Area), Grade 3a agricultural land?
Promote sustainable waste management solutions that encourage the reduction, re-use and recycling of waste.	Will the option/proposal help to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce the amount of waste produced? Move waste up the waste hierarchy? Maximise opportunities for local management of waste in order to minimise export of waste to areas outside? Encourage recycling of materials and minimise consumption of resources during construction?
Use and manage water resources in a sustainable manner.	Will the option/proposal help to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support improvements to water quality? Minimise water consumption?

Summary of the appraisal of the Draft Plan

- 7.6.1 The RNP allocates housing on three greenfield sites. The allocations are however not located on land classified of the 'Best and Most Versatile' agricultural land (i.e. Grade 3a land).
- 7.6.2 Outside of the development boundary, the RNP seeks to limit development unless strict criteria are met. One of the criteria is the redevelopment of previously developed land and the conversion of agricultural buildings. This promotes the efficient use of land.
- 7.6.3 **Policy D1** (incorporating **D1a-d**) and **Policy D2** will support soil and water quality through the ongoing development of high quality multifunctional green infrastructure networks in the parish. The ability of natural processes to support soil and water quality will be further reinforced by the biodiversity policy (**Policy G2**), as well the policies which promote the application of the Roche Design Guide.

7.7 Population and community

Relevant sustainability objectives

<i>SEA Objectives</i>	<i>SEA assessment questions:</i>
Cater for existing and future residents' needs as well as the needs of different groups in the community, and improve access to local, high-quality community services and facilities.	<p>Will the option/proposal help to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote the development of a range of high quality, accessible community facilities? • Encourage and promote social cohesion and encourage active involvement of local people in community activities? • Minimise fuel poverty? • Maintain or enhance the quality of life of existing local residents? • Improve the availability and accessibility of key local facilities, including specialist services for disabled and older people?
Reduce deprivation and promote a more inclusive and self-contained community.	
Provide everyone with the opportunity to live in good quality, affordable housing, and ensure an appropriate mix of dwelling sizes, types and tenures.	<p>Will the option/proposal help to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the provision of a range of house types and sizes? • Meet the needs of all sectors of the community? • Provide quality and flexible homes that meet people's needs? • Promote the use of sustainable building techniques, including use of sustainable building materials in construction? • Provide housing in sustainable locations that allow easy access to a range of local services and facilities?
Improve the health and wellbeing of Roche's residents.	<p>Will the option/proposal help to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote accessibility to a range of leisure, health and community facilities, for all age groups? • Encourage healthy lifestyles and reduce health inequalities? • Provide and enhance the provision of community access to green infrastructure, in accordance with Accessible Natural Greenspace Standards? • Improve access to the countryside for recreation? • Limit noise pollution?

Summary of the appraisal of the Draft Plan

7.7.1 The draft plan puts forward three sites for housing, a provision totalling in the region of 50 dwellings. As this is anticipated to exceed the requirements of the emerging Cornwall Local Plan, it is assumed that this growth quantum will meet the objectively assessed housing needs arising locally.

7.7.2 The current version of the RNP sets out provisions relating to the type and tenure of housing to be provided through the three site allocations. In this context **Policy A1** has a strong focus on providing plots for self-build. This provides opportunities for self-builders to build the type of home they require on an affordable basis and for creating high quality, distinctive and diverse residential neighbourhoods. The policy also provides provision for starter homes and provisions for affordable housing if it is demonstrated that 100% self-build is not viable. Outside of the settlement boundary, housing would be allowed under this policy for agricultural workers where a clear case of need has been made. Development of 100% affordable housing would also be exceptionally allowed where an evidenced local need has been made clear. This will support the rural economy of the area and livelihoods.

- 7.7.3 In terms of accessibility to services and facilities, the three sites proposed for allocations are located in good proximity to the centre of Roche with its range of amenities and public transport links. This will be supported by **Policy A1**, which directs development to within the settlement boundary, **Policy H1**, which seeks to ensure that developers prepare Design and Access Statements, and **Policy C1** and **C2**, which encourage the establishment of a safe pedestrian route from Victoria to Roche and the preparation of travel plans to accompany new employment development.
- 7.7.4 The quality of life of residents will also be promoted **Policy D1** (incorporating **D1a-d**) and **Policy D2**, which provide a focus on protecting open spaces and green infrastructure networks. In this context the draft plan's impetus on the protection and enhancement of green infrastructure networks and enhancements to pedestrian linkages will support the health and wellbeing of residents by facilitating improvements in levels of physical activity, enhancing social interaction between residents and promoting psychological well-being. This will be supported by the RNP's strong focus on local distinctiveness, enhancements to the public realm and on the protection and enhancement of townscape and landscape quality (**Section 7.5**). This will contribute to the satisfaction of residents with their neighbourhood as a place to live and promote the vitality of the parish.
- 7.7.5 Employment opportunities in the parish will be supported by **Policy C1** and **Policy C2**, which supports further growth of employment in Victoria. The economic vitality of the parish will also be supported by the RNP's focus on improving transport options, as discussed in detail in **Section 7.8**, and the three housing allocations proposed through the plan. In terms of education provision in the parish, **Policy A3** seeks to ensure that suitable school places are available at Roche Village School.
- 7.7.6 The RNP's support for the bypass associated with proposed A30-St Austell link road has the potential to help facilitate in the longer term significant positive effects for residents' quality of life and health and wellbeing, including through improving road safety, limiting noise and air pollution, enhancing the public realm and reducing the role of the existing route as a barrier for residents between different parts of Roche. These positive effects will be further supported by **Policy B1**, which seeks to divert HGVs from the centre of Roche.

7.8 Transportation

Relevant sustainability objectives

SEA Objectives SEA assessment questions:

Promote sustainable transport use and reduce the need to travel.

Will the option/proposal help to:

- Reduce the need to travel through sustainable patterns of land use and development?
 - Encourage modal shift to more sustainable forms of travel?
 - Enable transport infrastructure improvements?
 - Support working from home?
-

Summary of the appraisal of the Draft Plan

- 7.8.1 In relation to the spatial strategy, the three sites proposed for allocations are located in good proximity and accessibility to the centre of Roche with its range of services, facilities, amenities and public transport links. More widely in terms of the spatial strategy **Policy A1**, which directs development to within the settlement boundary, and **Policy C1** and **C2**'s focus on supporting employment development in Victoria, which is accessible by rail and road, will support accessibility to services, amenities and employment opportunities.
- 7.8.2 The draft plan has a focus on improving transport options in Roche. Central to this is the support for the bypass associated with the proposed A30-St Austell link road. Reinforced by the heavy good vehicle diversion policy (**Policy B1**), enhancements to the public realm resulting from the scheme,

including in the centre of the village and Trezaise Road will enhance the safety of vulnerable road users such as walkers and cyclists.

- 7.8.3 In terms of the promotion of sustainable transport links, **Policy H1** seeks to ensure that developers prepare Design and Access Statements which address accessibility for pedestrians, cyclists and the physically disadvantaged. This is supported by the green infrastructure policies, **Policy D1** (incorporating **D1a-d**) and **Policy D2**, which will enhance opportunities for walking and cycling in the parish and Policy C1, which promotes the development of travel plans to accompany new employment development. In terms of specific sustainable transport projects **Policy C1** and **C2** encourages the establishment of a safe pedestrian route from Victoria to Roche. This will enhance road safety for vulnerable road users, addressing existing issues relating to the lack of a footpath along Victoria Road.
- 7.8.4 Accessibility in Roche will also be supported by the policies' application of the **Design Guide**, which promotes the provision of pedestrian and cycle enhancements, and **Policy C4**, which seeks to ensure that the provision of car parking currently offered by the car park adjacent to Co-op is maintained.

7.9 Conclusions at this current stage

Potential significant effects

- 7.9.1 The appraisal has concluded that the current version of the RNP is likely to lead to **significant positive effects** in terms of the 'population and community' SEA objectives. These benefits largely relate to the carefully targeted spatial approach proposed by the Submission version of the plan, the focus on improving the quality of life of residents in Roche, the impetus on promoting enhancements to the public realm and the RNP's focus on protecting and enhancing green infrastructure and supporting enhancements to transport networks.
- 7.9.2 In terms of potential negative effects, there are likely to be some minor effects on landscape and townscape from new areas of development within and on the edge of Roche associated with the allocation of the three sites through the RNP. However, central to the Neighbourhood Plan is the protection and enhancement of the historic environment, the public realm and landscape / townscape character of the parish. When combined with the opportunities offered by the proposed bypass associated with the proposed A30-St Austell link road, this has the potential to lead to **significant positive effects** in Roche village in relation to the 'historic environment and landscape' SEA objectives.
- 7.9.3 In relation to potential effects on biodiversity, negative effects are likely to be limited by the policy approaches put forward through the RNP. Whilst the proposed sites for housing allocations are located in relative proximity to the internationally and nationally designated biodiversity sites present in the parish, any adverse effects on these sites are likely to be limited by the proposed size of the allocations. This is reflected by the allocations not being located within an Impact Risk Zone for the SSSIs for the type and scale of development being proposed.
- 7.9.4 Whilst the draft plan approach will help initiate a range of beneficial approaches in relation to 'climate change' theme (including in relation to mitigation and adaptation) and the 'land, soil and water resources' theme, these are not considered to be significant in the context of the SEA process.

Recommendations at this current stage

- 7.9.5 The two recommendations proposed in the Environmental Report accompanying the Regulation 14 consultation version of the Neighbourhood Plan (**Section 6.3.2**) have been responded to through the updated policies presented in the Submission version of the RNP. As such no further recommendations are made at this stage.

Three thin black lines intersect to form a large, irregular triangle on the left side of the page. One line is nearly vertical, another is nearly horizontal, and the third is diagonal. They intersect in the upper-left quadrant.

Part 4:
What are the next steps?

8 Next steps

This Part of the Environmental Report explains the next steps that will be taken as part of the plan-making / SEA process.

8.1 Plan finalisation

- 8.1.1 The RNP has been submitted to the Local Planning Authority, Cornwall Council, for its consideration. Cornwall Council will consider whether the plan is suitable to go forward to Independent Examination in terms of the RNP meeting legal requirements and its compatibility with the Local Plan.
- 8.1.2 Subject to Cornwall Council's agreement, the RNP will then be subject to Independent Examination. The Examiner will consider whether the plan meets the requirements of the Basic Conditions and whether it is in general conformity with the Local Plan.
- 8.1.3 The Examiner has three options:
- a) That the plan proceeds to referendum as submitted;
 - b) The plan is modified by the LPA to meet Basic Conditions and then the modified version proceeds to referendum; or
 - c) That the plan/ does not proceed to referendum.
- 8.1.4 It is only after the independent examination has taken place and after the Examiner's report has been received that the Local Planning Authority comes to its formal view on whether the draft Neighbourhood Plan meets the Basic Conditions. Where the report recommends modifications to the plan, Cornwall Council will invite the RNP Steering Committee to make modifications to the plan, which will be reflected in an updated Environmental Report.
- 8.1.5 Where the examination is favourable, the RNP will then be subject to a referendum, organised by Cornwall Council. If more than 50% of those who vote agree with the plan, then it will be passed to Cornwall Council with a request it is 'made'. Once adopted, the RNP will become part of the development plan for Roche.

The page features three thin, black, intersecting lines that create a complex geometric pattern. One line slopes downwards from the top-left towards the right. Another line slopes upwards from the bottom-left towards the right. A third line slopes downwards from the top-right towards the left. These lines intersect to form several triangular and quadrilateral shapes across the page.

Appendices

Appendix I: Regulatory requirements

Annex I of the SEA Directive prescribes the information that must be contained in the Environmental Report; however, interpretation of Annex I is not straightforward. The table below 'interprets' Annex I requirements.

Annex 1

Interpretation of Annex I

The report must include...

The report must include...

(a) an outline of the contents, main objectives of the plan and relationship with other relevant plans and programmes;	An outline of the contents, main objectives of the plan and relationship with other relevant plans and programmes	i.e. answer - <i>What's the Plan seeking to achieve?</i>	i.e. answer - <i>What's the scope of the SA?</i>
(b) the relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan	Any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan including, in particular, those relating to any areas of a particular environmental importance	i.e. answer - <i>What's the 'context'?</i>	
(c) the environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected;	The relevant environmental protection objectives, established at international or national level	i.e. answer - <i>What's the 'baseline'?</i>	
(d) any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan or programme including, in particular, those relating to any areas of a particular environmental importance, such as areas designated pursuant to Directives 79/409/EEC and 92/43/EEC;	The relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan'		
(e) the environmental protection objectives, established at international, Community or Member State level, which are relevant to the plan and the way those objectives and any environmental considerations have been taken into account during its preparation;	The environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected	i.e. answer - <i>What are the key issues & objectives?</i>	
(f) the likely significant effects on the environment including on issues such as biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage, landscape and the interrelationship between the above factors;	Any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan including, in particular, those relating to any areas of a particular environmental importance		
(g) the measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects on the environment of implementing the plan;	Key environmental problems / issues and objectives that should be a focus of appraisal		
(h) an outline of the reasons for selecting the alternatives dealt with and a description of how the assessment was undertaken including any difficulties (such as technical deficiencies or lack of know-how) encountered in compiling the required information	An outline of the reasons for selecting the alternatives dealt with (i.e. an explanation of the 'reasonableness of the approach')	i.e. answer - <i>What has Plan-making / SA involved up to this point?</i>	
(i) a description of the measures envisaged concerning monitoring.	The likely significant effects associated with alternatives, including on issues such as... ... and an outline of the reasons for selecting the preferred approach in light of the alternatives considered / a description of how environmental objectives and considerations are reflected in the draft plan.		
	The likely significant effects associated with the draft plan	i.e. answer - <i>What are the appraisal findings at this current stage?</i>	
	The measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects of implementing the draft plan		
	A description of the measures envisaged concerning monitoring	i.e. answer - <i>What happens next?</i>	

Appendix II: SEA Framework

Environmental theme	SEA objective	Decision aiding questions. Will the proposal/option help to ... ?
Biodiversity	Protect and enhance all biodiversity and geological features	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support continued improvements to the status of the Breney Common and Goss and Tregoss Moors SAC and Goss and Tregoss Moors SSSI? • Support continued improvements to the status of the River Camel SAC and River Camel Valley and Tributaries SSSI? • Support continued improvements to the status of the St Austell Clay Pits SAC and SSSI? • Support continued improvements to the geological interest of the Tregonetha & Belowda Downs - Belowda Beacon SSSI and Roche Rock SSSI? • Protect and enhance semi-natural habitats? • Protect and enhance priority habitats, and the habitat of priority species? • Achieve a net gain in biodiversity? • Increase the connectivity between existing habitats? • Increase the resilience of biodiversity in the plan area to the effects of climate change? • Support access to, interpretation and understanding of biodiversity and geodiversity? • Limitation the effects of air pollution on biodiversity sites, including internationally and nationally designated sites?
Climate Change	Promote climate change mitigation in Roche	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limit the increase in the carbon footprint of the plan area from population growth? • Promote the use of sustainable modes of transport, including walking, cycling and public transport and reduce the need to travel? • Increase number of new developments meeting sustainable design criteria? • Generate energy from low or zero carbon sources? • Reduce energy consumption from non-renewable resources?
	Support the resilience of Roche to the potential effects of climate change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that no development takes place in areas at higher risk of flooding, taking into the likely effects of climate change into account? • Improve green infrastructure networks in the plan area to support adaptation to the potential effects of climate change? • Sustainably manage water run-off using SuDS, ensuring that the risk of flooding is not increased (either within the plan area or downstream) and where possible reduce flood risk?

Environmental theme	SEA objective	Decision aiding questions. Will the proposal/option help to ... ?
Historic Environment and Landscape	Protect, maintain and enhance Roche's cultural heritage resource, including its historic environment and archaeological assets.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conserve and enhance cultural heritage assets and their settings? • Conserve and enhance local diversity and distinctiveness? • Support the integrity of the historic setting of key features including the Chapel of St Michael at Roche Rock, the Church of St Gomonda and features of mining heritage interest? • Support access to, interpretation and understanding of the historic environment?
	Protect and enhance the character and quality of landscapes and townscapes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conserve and enhance landscape and townscape features? • Support the integrity of the setting of the key heritage features, including the Chapel of St Michael, the tower of St Gomanda, Glebe Meadow and features of mining heritage?
Land, water and soil resources	Ensure the efficient use of land.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote the use of previously developed land? • Avoid the development of the best and most versatile agricultural land (in the Neighbourhood Area), Grade 3a agricultural land?
	Promote sustainable waste management solutions that encourage the reduction, re-use and recycling of waste.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce the amount of waste produced? • Move waste up the waste hierarchy? • Maximise opportunities for local management of waste in order to minimise export of waste to areas outside? • Encourage recycling of materials and minimise consumption of resources during construction?
	Use and manage water resources in a sustainable manner.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support improvements to water quality? • Minimise water consumption? • Protect groundwater resources?
Population and Community	Cater for existing and future residents' needs as well as the needs of different groups in the community, and improve access to local, high-quality community services and facilities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote the development of a range of high quality, accessible community facilities? • Encourage and promote social cohesion and encourage active involvement of local people in community activities? • Minimise fuel poverty? • Maintain or enhance the quality of life of existing local residents? • Improve the availability and accessibility of key local facilities, including specialist services for disabled and older people?
	Reduce deprivation and promote a more inclusive and self-contained community.	
	Provide everyone with the opportunity to live in good quality, affordable housing, and ensure an appropriate mix of dwelling sizes, types and tenures.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the provision of a range of house types and sizes? • Meet the needs of all sectors of the community? • Provide quality and flexible homes that meet people's needs? • Promote the use of sustainable building techniques, including use of sustainable building materials in construction? • Provide housing in sustainable locations that allow easy access to a range of local services and facilities?

Environmental theme	SEA objective	Decision aiding questions. Will the proposal/option help to ... ?
	Improve the health and wellbeing of Roche's residents.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote accessibility to a range of leisure, health and community facilities, for all age groups? • Encourage healthy lifestyles and reduce health inequalities? • Provide and enhance the provision of community access to green infrastructure, in accordance with Accessible Natural Greenspace Standards? • Improve access to the countryside for recreation? • Limit noise pollution?
Transportation	Promote sustainable transport use and reduce the need to travel.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce the need to travel through sustainable patterns of land use and development? • Encourage modal shift to more sustainable forms of travel? • Enable transport infrastructure improvements? • Support working from home?

